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GROMYKO STATEMENTS ON DISARMAMENT REVIEWED

LD201751 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 20 Jun 83

[Viktor Anikin commentary]

[Text] The close attention being paid abroad to the outcome of the sessions of the leading organs of our party and state are understandable because momentous questions to all mankind were raised at them. Comrades, you know, of course, that the speech by Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko at the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet set out in detail the foreign policy line of our country. Comrade Gromyko dwelt in particular on the proposal of the Warsaw Pact countries to conclude an agreement with NATO which would contain a mutual commitment not to use any weapons, either nuclear or conventional. That proposal contained in the Warsaw Pact's familiar Prague Political Declaration completely refuted the claims of the NATO circles that allegedly the commitments of the USSR not to make first use of nuclear weapons leaves the Soviet Union with the opportunity to use conventional weapons in which it, allegedly, has the superiority. However, Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko stressed, no little time has already passed since that proposal was placed before our Western partners. We are ready to immediately start talks and we once more call on the NATO countries to consider our initiatives seriously.

It should be noted that by sabotaging the reaching of an agreement on nuclear weapons, the members of the NATO alliance are also pursuing the same course regarding conventional weapons. Let us take as an example the talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe which have been held in Vienna for 10 years now. In an attempt to give these talks a constructive character, the European socialist states have several times submitted fresh proposals, and the essence of them is this: to lower the threshold of confrontation between NATO and the Warsaw Pact both in personnel and in combat equipment by adhering to the principle of equal security. In February the socialist countries proposed a cut in the armed forces of both sides to equal collective levels -- 900,000 men each, including 700,000 ground troops each. In addition to that, on the basis of mutual example during the course of a year the Soviet Union could withdraw from central Europe 20,000 and the United States 13,000 servicemen. I would also like to remind you that earlier our country, demonstrating a model of good will, had already unilaterally withdrawn 20,000 personnel from GDR territory. But so far the talks in Vienna have not produced positive results. The blame for this lies entirely on the NATO countries, which are submitting innumerable reservations and unacceptable demands for the security of the socialist community.

DISARMAMENT ISSUES, ARMS TALK PROPOSALS VIEWED

LD202207 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 20 Jun 83

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Yennadiy Yerasimov]

[Text] The representatives of the circles of the vividly expressed imperialist ambitions, propagating the cult of force in international relations, are now at the helm of Washington foreign policy. This was stated in a report at the Supreme Soviet session on 16 June. As a coincidence, on 18 June U.S. Secretary of State Shultz spoke. He explained U.S. foreign policy to members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Let's make a small comparative analysis.

The report at the CPSU Central Committee plenum was marked by the calm, assured tone of the speech by Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, sharply contrasting with the irresponsible, aggressive declarations of the White House. It was said in the report at the Supreme Soviet session that the reality of the situation which has emerged requires a display of particular restraint in all spheres.

It is of no use to peace when it is not considered necessary to observe even the minimum of generally accepted propriety in interstate affairs. Shultz is of a different opinion. He told the senators that the crude rhetoric is, as he explained, negative atmospheric hindrances and they are not allegedly any obstacle to diplomacy. He was rude to us. He did not hold back. Strictly speaking, Shultz was following the example of the President who, until recently, was carried away with verbal exercises -- no, not so much. Thus a bit more from Shultz by way of compensation. Reagan even explained the reasons recently. He said in an interview: A very large part of this rhetoric is intended for domestic consumption, that is, setting the people against another country. By the way, Russian does not use such strong language, and in this respect Russian is probably richer than English. But Moscow is against artificially creating antagonism. There is here an expression of the feeling of responsibility for the state of international relations, for if one begins to view these relations as a battlefield, then they can become a battlefield.

Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko recalled the Soviet proposals and called for talks. Shultz, for his part, repeated to the senators the President's argument that if during the talks increased interest in reaching agreement is shown, then the results may turn out disastrous for U.S. interests. This is the tactic of the housewife at the market: to pretend that one does not really need the sauerkraut, in order to get the price lowered. Such bazaar-like cunning can still be understood, but Shultz goes further. His pretense of disinterest conceals genuine U.S. lack of interest in reaching an agreement. He admitted this himself by stating to senators that if nothing comes out of the talks -- and I quote -- then so be it. This, incidentally, caused ASSOCIATED PRESS to headline their report on this as Shultz states that agreement is impossible. It is interesting here that at various moments Shultz talks about mutually exclusive things. The other day the State Department issued a report ratified: Security and Arms Control. Shultz composed the preface to it, and he wrote: At present the United States is profoundly involved in the talks process. What about the optimistic fatalism expressed in his phrase -- then so be it. No, it is not necessary for the situation to be like this, and four specific steps are proposed in the report at the Supreme Soviet session.

The first step is a freeze of nuclear arsenals; this has already been spoken of. Step two is a ban on nuclear arms tests. This is a good brake on the arms race. It is difficult to create new arms systems without tests. Talking about tests, since 1963 when tests were partially banned, the United States and the Soviet Union have been conducting them underground. According to certain Western calculations there have been three Soviet tests for every four U.S. tests. Now Reagan states, and justifies his military programs with these statements, that the United States has lagged behind us in strategic arms. The lag arises with a greater number of U.S. tests. It turns out that the U.S. military specialists are more than 25 percent less capable than their Soviet counterparts. Perhaps, but nevertheless it is sounder to assume that they are not such slow learners. The rival must not be underestimated, but the increase in tests merely confirms that the United States is aspiring to military superiority and therefore they do not want to halt tests.

Step three, peace in space. The United States has extended its plans for space war.

Fred Ikle, U.S. deputy defense secretary, said that war will be transferred to where there are no people. Well, this is their dream. This official passion for the unthinkable is similar to the passion of Americans, children and many adults, for the series of films on Star Wars. Three weeks ago the third film in this series came out -- Return of the Jedi. It is not possible to retell this stupid fantasy, but the war of the future comes out effectively and bloodlessly on the screen -- a sterile war where good triumphs over evil. The cover of the June issue of LIFE magazine enthuses over the film. But what is very similar to this passion is the space craze which has gripped the Pentagon. The Soviet Union proposes not transferring the arms race into space.

Finally, step four -- banning and eliminating chemical weapons. These are the specific Soviet proposals, or rather only part of these proposals. But what does the U.S. Administration think in principle about talks on measures to limit arms and disarmament, talks which Shultz considers the United States to be profundly involved in and, as he thinks, there are no results to be expected with Reagan? This is the striking discord in Washington and it shows the true colors of the administration. There is Richard Perle, the garrulous aide to the defense secretary. To the question of a correspondent on whether there is any sense in arms control, he answered: There was sense once, and that was in The Hague in 1899 when an agreement was reached not to drop bombs from air balloons. Will you get far with such attitudes? This is an attitude of diktat and not of searching for agreement.

But we will return to Shultz for the last time. It seems this was not simply a routine speech. In any case an observer of THE WASHINGTON POST wrote as follows: In his speech, the text of which was personally approved by President Reagan, Shultz proclaimed the course toward the global positions of the Soviet Union, a doctrine of global opposition to the Soviet Union, calling for the replacement of the postwar course of restraint. Today the United States is sticking to this doctrine of global opposition and they back it up, in particular, by encouraging, say, the counterrevolution in Afghanistan, clearly dissatisfied with the talks to settle the problem concerning Afghanistan.

U.S. SAID HINDERING CONSTRUCTIVE DISARMAMENT TALKS

Melnikov in PRAVDA

PM201408 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jun 83 First Edition p 5

[Igor Melnikov commentary: "Who Is Hindering Matters"]

[Text] The Disarmament Committee, the international forum whose role was noticeably augmented during the years of detente and which has made it possible to gather under its auspices the five nuclear powers that are first in the world in military terms, has resumed its work in Geneva.

The present session's agenda is as sound as those of previous sessions. The delegates will examine about 10 draft agreements whose purpose is to curb the various aspects of the arms race. Nevertheless, today it can be said with total clarity that not all committee member states are making the necessary efforts to achieve progress along the path of disarmament. The constructive examination of problems which are most important for the peoples' security is hindered by the exacerbation of the international situation -- an exacerbation stemming from incessant attempts by the U.S. Administration and the aggressive NATO ruling clique to attain military superiority over the Soviet Union and over the Warsaw Pact Organization as a whole and to upset the existing equilibrium of forces.

This dangerous venture is to be served especially by the deployment of the new U.S. Pershing II and cruise nuclear missiles on European soil. Washington opposes the specific peace initiatives by the USSR and the other socialist countries by a course of heightening tension. It was only after prolonged "battling for position" that the United States grudgingly agreed to discuss the problem of preventing a nuclear war. This issue is included on the agenda, but nevertheless the problem of setting up a special working body to draft the political and legal provisions safeguarding mankind from the danger of a nuclear catastrophe has yet to be resolved.

The U.S. delegation also manifests obvious obstructionism on another most important issue: a total and universal ban on nuclear arms tests. It is well known that 3 years ago Washington slammed the door on the Soviet-U.S.-British talks. It has chosen substantially the same position for the Disarmament Committee sessions.

The international public is also alarmed by the behavior of U.S. diplomats in the matter of preventing a space arms race. The idea of a peaceful outer space is firmly championed by the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, as well as by the nonaligned states, while a number of Western delegations have spoken in favor of a constructive discussion of this matter.

The U.S. delegation is also releasing a venomous cloud of disinformation from Geneva's Palais des Nations regarding the question of banning and liquidating chemical weapons. It obviously suits the Pentagon generals to delay the drawing up of an international convention to ban and liquidate these weapons. At the same time, the production of chemical means of warfare is expanding across the ocean.

Many words, few deeds. A bitter truth! The peoples expect and demand of the Disarmament Committee firm actions to tame the Moloch of war.

Further Remarks

LD201658 Moscow World Service in English 1300 GMT 20 Jun 83

[Text] Now a dispatch from our correspondent Vsevolod Shishkovskiy in Geneva, where the United Nations Disarmament Committee is holding its summer session in the Palace of Nations.

The agenda of this international forum includes some 10 draft agreements designed to curb the arms race in its various aspects. It is clear, though, that not all member-countries of the committee are doing everything necessary to move matters forward. What hinders a constructive discussion of problems vital to the security of nations is the aggravation of the international situation brought about by every new attempts on the part of the American Administration and the aggressive higher echelons of NATO to upset the existing military-strategic balance of strength. The proposed deployment of hundreds of new American Pershing II's and cruise missiles in Europe is intended to facilitate this scheme which jeopardizes peace throughout the world.

As the Soviet Union and other socialist countries keep advancing concrete peace initiatives Washington, by contrast, keeps building up tension as a matter of policy. It was only after long trench fighting, so to speak, that the United States reluctantly agreed to discuss the problem of averting nuclear war. The issue is being put on the agenda of the Geneva committee, but nothing has been decided so far about setting up a special working group to draw up the political and legal terms that would shield mankind from the threat of nuclear catastrohpe. Equally obstructive has been the American delegation's attitude to another major issue, that of imposing a complete ban on all nuclear weapons tests.

May I remind you that 3 years ago Washington walked out on the Soviet-American-British talks. These days it is displaying much the same attitude at meetings of the Disarmament Committee.

Press reports indicate that world public opinion is also alarmed by the behavior of American diplomats over matters concerning prevention of arms buildup in space. The Soviet Union and the socialist community, the nonaligned countries, are all fighting for the idea that space should serve peaceful purposes only. A number of Western delegations have called for a constructive discussion of this problem. The head of the Mexican delegation at the Disarmament Committee, Alfonso Garcia Robles, Nobel Peace Prize winner, has said a few words for Radio Moscow in connection with the start of the summer session.

During the recent spring session, he said, we witnessed attempts by certain Western delegations to hamper the committee's work. Mr Alfonso Garcia Robles emphasized the significance of the problems the committee is discussing and he expressed the hope that the situation would change, allowing for a constructive and positive settlement of many vital matters that preoccupy mankind.

START DELEGATIONS' MEETING ON 17 JUNE REPORTED

LD172001 Moscow TASS in English 1817 GMT 17 Jun 83

[Text] Geneva June 17 TASS -- The heads of the delegations to the Soviet-American negotiations on limitation and reduction of strategic armaments had a meeting here today.

NATO PLANS FOR WEST EUROPE CAUSE 'CONFLICT'

Gen Rogers' Article Scored

LD201313 Moscow TASS in English 1217 GMT 20 Jun 83

["What General Rogers Is After" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow June 20 TASS -- TASS news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes:

The higher are the waves of the anti-war movement sweeping Europe, the alarm and exasperation this movement causes in the NATO countries. This has once again been confirmed also by General Bernard Rogers, NATO supreme allied commander in Europe, who lashed out in his article published in the Swiss EBDO weekly against the peace champions, accusing them of allegedly wishing "to give up their countries to the tender mercies of the enemy," listing as "heretics" millions of people who declare agains the turning of Western Europe into the Pentagon's nuclear hostage. He offered also a prescription how to put the "lost sheep" on the right road. But what does he advise? It turns out that the NATO's most important objective is to "organize information for them."

Needless to say, that this "prescription" looks at least strange: As it is more than obvious that it is precisely the realization of the dangerous situation, which emerged in Europe and outside it and generates an unprecedented upsurge of the anti-war movement. The wide masses clearly realize the threats to peace stemming from Washington's attempts at ensuring nuclear superiority at all costs. The wide masses are also well informed about the dangerous consequences of turning Western Europe into a launching pad for new American missiles targeted on the USSR. But what else can the NATO commander-in-chief tell the participants in the anti-war movement over and above these facts. We, he declares, must explain the population of the West European countries that their freedom is in danger and they should agree to considerable sacrifices. To leave no doubt in the readers of EBDO about what he means, General Rogers adds: One morning we may find ourselves faced with such a superiority of the enemy in military force, that we will become dependent on him.

That's where the shoe pinches! The NATO supreme commander is not so much concerned about information, as about new psychological attacks against those who declare for curbing the arms race, for reducing the level of nuclear confrontation. His statement in EBDO is fresh proof of the fact that NATO further intends to expand on the absurd idea of some "Soviet menace" which is allegedly hanging over Western Europe. It is also fresh proof of the fact that using that invention was a cover, NATO further intends to make the West Europeans not only resign themselves to Washington's and NATO's plans as regards the deployment of almost 600 U.S. Pershing and cruise missiles, but also to persuade them to lay to the NATO's altar new millions of marks, guilders and pounds sterling. On top of the one and a half trillion dollars which Washington itself is planning to spend on the implementation of the project for a "rearmament of America", which has already been set in motion and is designed for a period of five years -- a project which has the single aim of upsetting the strategic parity and obtaining a longer and sharper nuclear sword for forcing its will on sovereign countries and peoples....

Their efforts are in conflict with ours, Rogers complains angrily, when speaking about the anti-war movement. But this is right. How can it be different?

As the posters and streamers carried by the participants in the mass demonstrations through the streets of the European capitals say: "For peace and security for Europe"! "No to the American missile bases on the European soil". "We want jobs, not missiles." But NATO, as General Rogers once again reaffirmed, is leading things in a diametrically opposite direction.

Papandreou, Gonzalez Comment

LD202306 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1712 GMT 20 Jun 83

[Eduard Kovalev, international affairs journalist report; from the "International Diary" Program presented by Igor Surguchev]

[Text] It is worth noting that at the Paris session of the NATO Council disagreements arose on the issue of U.S. missile deployment. There is no unanimity in influential circles of West European countries, nor among Washington's NATO partners themselves. The NATO bloc Secretary General Luns, was himself forced to admit this. Speaking at the session, he referred to Denmark's position as an example of this. By a majority of votes its parliament called for a postponement of the implementation of NATO's plans for the missiles' deployment.

Greek Prime Minister Papandreou took an even more decisive position on this problem: He stated that the U.S. Administration's plans to deploy medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe would increase the danger of a nuclear conflict. For the first time, said Papandreou, we in Western Europe are on a path which is fraught with the danger of a nuclear conflict. He said that the NATO alliance's deployment of Pershing II and cruise missiles in Europe, starting from autumn 1983, could become an impetus for world conflagration.

Spain also expressed reservations at the NATO session in Paris. At the moment the Spanish Government is examining the whole complex of its relations with NATO. I would like to quote Spanish Prime Minister Gonzalez' statement, in an interview given to TIME, that Spain is not at all obliged to remain a member of NATO. Spain does not need it, and it is not expedient from a global point of view. Therefore, said the prime minister, I support the preservation of the situation which existed 18 months ago before Spain entered NATO. Gonzalez confirmed that a referendum would be held in Spain on the question of participation in NATO.

As we can see, NATO's dangerous militaristic plans, which lead to a further exacerbation of the international situation, are arousing justified anxiety about the fate of peace and security not only among the European public, but also among a number of leaders of NATO countries themselves.

FRG on NATO 'Firmness'

DW161323 Moscow in German to Germany 1600 GMT 13 Jun 83

[Valentin Sakharov Commentary]

[Text] Esteemed ladies and gentlemen: The decisions of the NATO foreign ministers' conference, also called NATO Council decisions, caused disappointment in most European countries and also in most NATO countries. In addition to the United States, the exceptions to this reaction are the governments of the FRG, Britain, and probably Italy. Under pressure from these four governments, the meeting of NATO foreign ministers took place last week in Paris. In the capitals of these four countries, the proponents of missiles are governing; they are almost ready for the deployment of new American intermediate-range missiles in Western Europe.

Official Bonn, including FRG Foreign Minister Genscher, considers tne Paris NATO decisions to be an expression of the NATO states' firmness in maintaining their security interests . The word firmness has a double meaning for Mr Genscher and the conservatives in Bonn. First, firmness is seen in the refusal to take the British and French nuclear potentials into consideration in solving the problem of intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe, as the Soviet Union proposes. Second, the word "firmness" is being used in Bonn as a synonym for the decision by the Kohl government to deploy the American missiles in the FRG in line with the NATO missile decision. Safeguarding security interests is what Bonn calls all of this.

It is nothing new for Bonn politicians to speak of security and their security interests. The assertion that their policy gives the people security is also not new. This has also been said in Bonn over the past decades. However, armaments that were identified with security along the Rhine led to two world wars. After World War II it was not only the conservative politicians who devoted themselves to armaments which they called and still call security policy.

The more the FRG rearms, the more weapons are amassed along the Rhine, the more insecure the politicians in Bonn feel. Nevertheless, they keep calling for more weapons, for new and increasingly more destructive weapons.

The current Bonn government headed by the CDU also speaks almost exclusively of security for the FRG. However, this must be genuine security for Europe and not deceptive security for the FRG as well as for all other European states. The way toward this is shown by the Soviet Union's demand that the other nuclear powers also declare their readiness to renounce the first use of nuclear weapons and by the proposal of the Soviet Union to conclude a treaty between the Warsaw Pact and NATO on the mutual renunciation of military force, and by the fact that the Soviet Union has proposed to NATO a whole number of arms reduction and disarmament measures.

The FRG and all European states need arms reduction and disarmament for their security. However, if deployment of new American intermediate-range weapons takes place in the FRG -- offensive and first-strike weapons -- the security problem in Europe would gain a new dimension. In other words, the deployment of Pershing II and cruise missiles in the FRG will also be a question of the security of European states bordering the FRG.

PHYSICIANS AGAINST NUCLEAR WAR MEET IN AMSTERDAM

Boston Press Conference

LD170215 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1300 GMT 16 Jun 83

[From the VREMYA newscast; video report by Druzhinin]

[Text] Boston, Massachusetts -- To many people in America it is well known, not only as one of the country's major cultural centers, but also as a city where antiwar sentiment is particularly strong. It is precisely here, in Boston, that the headquarters of the American Branch of the International Physicians To Prevent Nuclear War organization is located. This organization brings together doctors from many countries in Europe, Asia and America. Its cochairmen are the eminent Soviet scientist, Academician Chazov, and one of the leading cardiologists in the United States, Professor Lown. Presently, the American doctors belonging to this organization are preparing for its next annual congress, which is due to open on 18 June in Amsterdam.

Over 300 scientists and doctors from 40 countries of the world are to attend this forum. But the American participants in the congress, representing as they do a country whose policies are based on an unbridled nuclear arms race which is a real threat to peace, are going to Amsterdam with a feeling of special responsibility.

This was precisely the subject on which Prof Bernard Lown, cochairman of the International Physicians To Prevent Nuclear War organization, and its secretary, James Muller, as well as Doctors (Chillen) and (Abrams) spoke at a Boston press conference. Medical men in the United States must undertake every effort to make clear to Americans the disastrous consequences threatned by nuclear war. It is their duty to put pressure on the Washington administration with the aim of compelling it to renounce its dangerous course toward military preparations, the participants in the press conference stressed.

What do American physicians expect from the congress in Amsterdam? Over to Prof Lown: [begin video recording of Lown at Boston press conference, speaking in English with superimposed Russian translation] I think the congress in Amsterdam will be successful. People in our profession unanimously reject nuclear weapons. They are united in calling on states to adopt a pledge not to be first to use them. Doctors are striving to see that competition in the arms race gives way to competition to preserve life on earth. [end recording]

This view is fully shared by Doctor James Muller: [begin video recording of Muller at press conference, speaking in Russian] I consider that our congress -- this is our third congress -- will be very important. It is the largest congress of our organization. I think we shall show that many illusions exist with respect to nuclear weapons, illusions about limited nuclear war, illusions that there can be some kind of victory in nuclear war. This is simply madness. On the basis of medical facts, such a possibility does not exist. And this is what we want to show the whole world. [end recording]

Participant Speeches Noted

LD182022 Moscow TASS in English 1553 GMT 18 Jun 83

[Text] Amsterdam Jun 18 TASS -- The third international congress of the "International Physicians for the Prevention of a Nuclear War" organization opened today in the building of Amsterdam University in a festive atmosphere. It is attended by representatives of more than 40 countries.

The Mayor of Amsterdam E. van Tain stressed, opening the congress, that the holding of its first session in the capital of Holland is rather symbolic, because residents of the city actively oppose the nuclear arms race and the NATO plans to deploy in Holland U.S. cruise missiles.

The president of the Dutch Royal Medical Association G. Daniels called on all the physicians of the world to rally in the struggle for the preservation of peace, for preventing a nuclear catastrophe.

Participants in the congress heard with great attention the message of Yuriy Andropov, read by the co-chairman of the "International Physicians for the Prevention of a Nuclear War" organization, the prominent Soviet scientist Academician Chazov.

Messages to the congress also came from the U.S. President, from the pope, the prime minister of Greece and other prominent figures.

The other co-chairman of the organization, U.S. Professor B. Lown, stressed in his report that the sacred duty of medics is to do good to people, to do it constantly and persistently, despite the inventions of the advocates of nuclear armaments, to bring home to people the truth about what the arms race has in store for them. He hailed the Soviet initiative -- the pledge on the no-first use of nuclear weapons -- and called on the U.S. and other NATO member states to follow the example of the USSR, which promotes the consolidation of mutual confidence in this tense period of international relations.

Academician Chazov pointed out in his report that if a nuclear war broke out it would immediately acquire a total character and would bring about the immediate death and grave injury of 2,500 million people, the changes in the biosphere, genetic, ecological and climatic distortions, radioactive contamination and the degenercy of human race. The data about the destructive power of the nuclear weapons is not the most terrifying thing. What is really terrifying is the ease with which some politicians and military figures manipulate with the threat of arms, having chosen this threat as a means for furthering political aims, the Soviet scientist underlined.

Reports of the scientists devoted to the scientific exposure of illusions disseminated in the West about a possibility to survive a nuclear war drew close attention of the audience.

All the speakers unanimously stressed that medical and biological consequences of a thermonuclear war would be tantamount to the ruin of humanity. The report of the well-known Soviet scientist, Academician Ilyin of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences, who proved on the basis of his calculations concerning the immediate medical consequences of a nuclear war, that owing to the physical characteristics of the nuclear weapons, a nuclear war would be the greatest catastrophe in the history of humanity, evoked great interest of the delegates of the congress. The Hungarian scientist Academician Z. Hollan pointed out that the very estimates of victims expected as a result of nuclear strikes, make a picture which is beyond human imagination. They acquire the political significance which means only one thing: a nuclear war must be averted.

Tonight both co-chairmen of the "International Physicians for the Prevention of a Nuclear War" organization were guests of the Dutch public. They shared with the Dutch people their ideas about the danger of a nuclear war and answered numerous questions.

Arbatov, Palme, Bahr Speak

LD191545 Moscow TASS in English 1531 GMT 19 Jun 83

[Text] Amsterdam June 19 TASS -- The current historical moment is characterised by mass public protests against the race of nuclear armaments, against the threat of nuclear war, by the keen attitude of peoples to the problems of war and peace, Sweden's Prime Minister Olof Palme has told the 3rd congress of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. Professional groups, specifically doctors, he said, play a considerable role in mobilising the movements of protest against the buildup of nuclear arsenals. Medics, Palme pointed out, should help disperse dangerous illusions generated by irresponsible politicians in the West about the possibility to survive nuclear war. "Nuclear war is a road to a point of no return. The talk about the possibility to win nuclear war are vicious illusions. The experience of Hiroshima showed that there will be no winners in nuclear war." The struggle for nuclear-free Europe can become one of the forms of overcoming these illusions, Palme suggested.

Academician Georgiy Arbatov, director of the Institute of United States and Canada at the Soviet Academy of Sciences, stressed in his statement that the question of avoiding another round in the race of nuclear missile armaments in Europe is of key importance. If the United States goes ahead with the deployment of American medium-range missiles in Western Europe this year, the USSR will adopt necessary retaliatory measures, he said. Let they in Washington have no illusions that the Soviet Union will allow the United States to gain military superiority. The USSR favours the equality of forces. Another illusion, the Soviet scientists said, is the U.S. Administration's hope to blackmail the Soviet Union at the Geneva talks by the new missiles. Some people in Western Europe believe that the beginning of the deployment of American missiles will compel the Soviet Union to alter its position at the talks. The most dangerous illusion is the idea of possible survival in nuclear war, Academician Arbatov said.

The war will push mankind from the nuclear age back to the stone age. The main condition for survival is now a change in the thinking of a certain category of Western politicians. It is high time that NATO and the Warsaw Treaty conclude an agreement on mutual non-use of military force and on maintenance of relations of peace, Arbatov pointed out.

Egon Bahr, chairman of the West German Bundestag's Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control, declared that he is strongly opposed to the stationing of nuclear weapons in the countries which do not possess them. According to him, the establishment of nuclear free zones in Europe could become one of the ways of resolving this problem.

Retired Admiral Noel Gaylor, member of the board of the American Committee on East-West Accord, stressed that the present arsenals of nuclear armaments should be immediately frozen and a moratorium introduced on the testing of new types of nuclear weapons. He called on the U.S. Administration to assume the pledge never to be the first to use nuclear weapons, and to agree to the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in Euorpe and reaching of an accord on reciprocal destruction of a large part of East and West nuclear arsenals. Gaylor stressed that the U.S. peace-loving public believes that at present, as never before, it is necessary to do everything possible so that nuclear war may never start.

WORLD PEACE, LIFE ASSEMBLY OPENS IN PRAGUE

To Express 'Will of Millions'

LD210914 Moscow TASS in English 0906 GMT 21 Jun 83

[Text] Prague June 21 TASS -- A world assembly "For Peace and Life, Against Nuclear War" has opened here today with the participation of nearly three thousand representatives of anti-war movements, political parties, public, women's and youth organizations from 140 countries. The delegates arrived in the capital of Czechoslovakia to express the will of the millions of people to uphold by common efforts the paramount right of people -- the right to life and to close the way to nuclear catastrophe.

The delegates to the Prague forum will discuss problems of war and peace, outline specific measures to curb the nuclear weapons race. The opening session of the assembly was attended by leaders of the Czechoslovak party and government with General Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee, President of the country Gustav Husak at their head.

Zhukov on Arms Race, Assembly

OW190812 [Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian at 0800 GMT on 18 June carries a 30-minute program "Talk by Yuriy Zhukov, Chairman of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace." Zhukov is shown in his study and begins his talk by noting that "tomorrow the large Soviet delegation, which includes envoys from all peace-loving public organizations of the Soviet Union, will leave for Prague for The World Assembly for Peace and Life and Against Nuclear War."

After showing the emblem of the Prague assembly, Zhukov says that the delegation is going to Prague "inspired by the results of the just-concluded plenum of our party's Central Committee and USSR Supreme Soviet Session in Moscow. The Central Committee Plenum resolution on topical questions of the party's ideological work, Comrade Andropov's program speeches, Comrade Chernenko's report and the 2-day discussion of this this report, as well as Comrade Gromyko's report at the Supreme Soviet session on The International Situation and the USSR's Foreign Policy and the discussion of this report, and finally the resolution adopted by the session and the law on labor collectives adopted after nationwide discussion, are major documents which not only arm the Soviet people, but also all peace-loving forces of our time with a clear and precise program of action whose implementation will be aimed at further improving developed socialism, at developing peaceful cooperation between states belonging to various social systems, towards preventing the military threat hanging over the world as a result of the aggressive actions of the United States and NATO, and at resolutely rebuffing hostile, malicious, and false imperialist propaganda.

"Our aim, Comrade Andropov stressed in his speech, is not simply to prevent wars. We aspire to fundamentally improve international relations and to strengthen and develop all good initiatives in these relations. We will strive to ensure, Comrade Andropov said, respect for the sovereign rights of states and peoples and strict adherence to the principles of international law which imperialism ever more frequently attempts to cast aside and trample."

Zhukov suggests that everyone study the documents of the party Central Committee plenum and USSR Supreme Soviet session and make an individual contribution to implementing the party's and state's tasks. Zhukov then notes that the Prague assembly will meet at a "particularly acute time when, as the CPSU Central Committee plenum resolution says, a sharp and unprecedented -- in the postwar period -- exacerbation of the struggle between the two social systems and the two diametrically opposed ideologies is occuring in the international arena." He notes that the USSR, the socialist community countries, nonaligned states and all peace-loving forces are struggling for peace, against war, and for the devleopment of mutually advantageous cooperation between all countries and adds that "the resolution adopted by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium the day before yesterday opens new possibilities in the struggle to end the arms race." As he notes that the Presidium directed the Soviet Government to approach the Western powers and propose a nuclear arms freeze, video shows the relevant passage underlined in a newspaper page carrying the resolution.

Zhukov then notes that the political course adopted at the Williamsburg summit "was diametrically opposite, militaristic, and insolent." As video shows the summit participants and the subsequent NATO meeting in Paris, Zhukov says that their results consist "primarily of the fact that Reagan's militarist policy prevailed both in Williamsburg and Paris. His aspirations to deploy new U.S. missiles in West Europe at any cost, and his desire to turn the countries of this part of the European Continent into nuclear hostages found support."

Zhukov then notes that "Reagan and his colleagues have now considerably changed the tone of their pronouncements" because of their fear of the peace movement. He says "they are attempting to diffuse the heat of the antiwar struggle with statements that are false and designed to mislead people into thinking that they supposedly want peace now and that they supposedly want peace now and that they supposedly need the arms race only to convince the intransigent, Soviet Union, you see, to begin disarming." He adds that "they now maintain that contacts and talks with the Soviet Union are, supposedly, promising and that consequently antiwar demonstrations and meetings are pointless insofar as Reagan and his allies have now become champions of peace themselves."

Zhukov goes on to report on demonstrations against the results of the Williamsburg and Paris meetings in "their own countries," even in Williamsburg. As video shows a photo of demonstrators holding a placard opposing cruise missiles, Zhukov cites a West German union figure as saying that "the meeting in Williamsburg of the leaders of seven of the largest capitalist states was turned into a conference on nuclear missile issues, at which the heads of state and government spoke out for the arms race at any cost." Zhukov also cites Western papers on the increasing number of people joining the peace movement and participating in protest activities.

Zhukov then returns to the topic of the Prague conference and notes that preparatory meetings have been held in many cities of the world. He predicts it will become a major stage in uniting antiwar forces in the struggle against aggression. He says that the question of "the danger of nuclear war as a threat to life and ways to avert this threat" will be the center of attention. He adds that representatives of major international and national organizations and movements as well as prominent political and social figures will take part in the conference.

After noting that people of diverse views support the idea of the unity of all antiwar forces, Zhukov describes how Soviet peace champions have been preparing for this conference. As video shows photos of Soviet peace actions and brief video footage of the meeting at the Kuzhniki sports stadium in Moscow, Zhukov says: "In May alone, more than 30,000 mass meetings and demonstrations were held in the Soviet Union, in which a total of more than 50 million people took part." Zhukov then enumerates various activities in support of peace held throughout the Soviet Union and in conjunction with neighboring countries.

As Zhukov points to a stack of letters on his desk, he notes that a torrent of letters has arrived at the Peace Committee with messages for the Soviet delegation to the Prague conference. Zhukov holds up petitions gathered in several Soviet cities and signed by "thousands of citizens." He also cites a letter to U.S. workers building Pershing II and cruise missiles, in which a war veteran recalls how he and his comrades helped repair a U.S. aircraft that came down at his airfield. He appeals to the U.S. workers to join the struggle against the threat of war.

Zhukov concludes his program by noting that the Soviet delegates will "have something to say" at the Prague conference which will promote the unity and cohesion of the united front of peace champions and the effectiveness of their struggle.

NOVOYE VREMYA Editorial

LD162141 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1710 GMT 16 Jun 83

[Text] Moscow, 16 Jun (TASS) -- The peoples have the powers and opportunities to prevent our anxious world from sharing the fate of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the editorial of the weekly NOVOYE VREMYA states in the 17 June issue.

In the second half of the 20th century alone, there have been three very strong waves of antiwar movement: in the 1950's, the 1960's and the 1970's. The first ended with the Stockholm proclamation and tied the hands of the U.S. imperialists who planned to drop an atomic bomb on the DPRK; the second assisted in the victory of the Vietnamese people; the third rescued Europe from the U.S. neutron bomb, the journal recalls. Now the fourth is rising, and let it be said, the most powerful.

If the essence of the era we are living through is uncovered, it turns out that mankind has been faced with an alternative. Either we will preserve everything that people have created by such great labor over their long history or we will lose all this, writes NOVOYE VREMYA. War, unless it is caused by the necessity of defending one's land and freedom, is always madness, but a nuclear missile war, the different options for which are reasoned almost as a sideline in NATO headquarters, is the ultimate madness.

The World Assembly "For Peace and Life Against Nuclear War" meets in Prague 21 June. The representatives of many international and national nongovernmental organizations initiated it, the journal writes. They thought of it as a major meeting of mass antiwar movements and organizations of the whole world, and as an open dialogue on the urgent questions of war and peace, an equal and constructive dialogue based on the principles of mutual respect, the article says. It is planned to conduct a public hearing on "the danger of nuclear war — the threat to life and ways of averting this threat." A topic of open discussion will be the vital question of the arms race: how to halt it and reverse it. Talks will be conducted on the role of the United Nations in achieving peace, the journal points out. Thoughts will be exchanged in Prague on economic aspects and the social and psychological consequences of the arms race. The participants in the assembly will also discuss the role of the Nonaligned Movement and the problems of the Near East, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Of course, much attention will be devoted to exchanging experiences between the movements fighting for peace.

The assembly in Prague again shows that it is too early yet to write the obituary for peace and detente. The way to detente and — as the ultimate aim— to rejecting all nuclear weapons and the extremely large stores of conventional weapons lies in the solidarity of all forces and peoples. The effect of the formation of forces will lend even greater weight to the word of Prague, the article says in conclusion.

Peruvian Delegate Comments

LD171517 Moscow TASS in English 1424 GMT 17 Jun 83

[Excerpts] Lima June 17 TASS — Our profound conviction is that the World Assembly "For Peace and Life, Against Nuclear War", which is due to open in Prague in a few days time, will make a profound contribution to consolidation of world peace and to the averting of the threat of a world nuclear war, said the head of the Peruvian delegation to the forum, prominent politician and public figure of Peru Asuncion Caballero Mendez.

The delegation of Peru regards the coming forum in Czechoslovakia as a new possibility to condemn from its high rostrum the policy of the Reagan administration which leads the world to a nuclear catastrophe, to tip the balance in favour of international detente, friendship, and mutual understanding between nations, stressed Asuncion Caballero Mendez.

I do not doubt that the World Assembly for Peace in Prague, the TASS correspondent has been told by member of the delegation, chairman of the National Association of Writers and Artists Magda Portal, will express the most sacred aspirations and hopes of mankind for preservation of world peace, for ensuring conditions, and building a better life for all people of our planet.

SHULTZ SPEECH TO SENATE COMMITTEE CONDEMNED

LD202004 Moscow TASS in English 1845 GMT 20 Jun 83

["Shultz Speaks His Mind...." -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, June 20 TASS -- TASS observer on military matters Vladimir Bogachev writes:

Until recently U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz preferred whenever possible to limit himself to laconic and vague statements on military problems. He thus managed, while not entering into conflicts with the White House, to avoid caustic remarks in the world press for which Reagan and Weinberger constantly become targets.

But apparently this sort of "vacation" for Shultz is over. As the saying goes, those who keep company with the wolf will learn to howl. And the secretary of state of the USA, in his speech in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, recoursed to demagogy in such a way as to prove that he can falsify facts no worse than Weinberger himself.

Here are some examples from Shultz' speech.

Shultz said that not a single U.S. Administration before put on the negotiating table such a multitude of proposals on the leveling out of the East's and West's military might. Meanwhile, facts show that Reagan had ultimately derailed the SALT-2 Treaty, disrupted and keeps from resuming the talks on general and complete nuclear weapons test ban, on anti-satellite systems, on the limitation of deliveries and sales of conventional armaments, on the limitation of the military activity in the Indian Ocean. The present U.S. Administration refuses to ratify the treaty on the limitation of underground nuclear weapon tests and on peaceful nuclear blasts. When working out the U.S. proposals for the talks on Geneva the Reagan administration is guided by one criterion, their being unacceptable for the Soviet Union.

Shultz said that presenting all-embracing proposals, Reagan had made it plain that the talks on strategic arms limitation and reduction encompass all strategic armaments.

Facts: The Reagan plan does not envisage even the discussion at the talks of the question of restrictions on the deployment of several thousand U.S. strategic ground-launched, sea-launched and air-launched cruise missiles! Reagan suggests to put off indefinitely the question of limitations on heavy bombers for which the United States has an almost four-fold advantage.

Assessing Reagan's proposals on strategic arms limitation and reduction, former director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency Paul Warnke said it is suggested that the Soviet Union reduce armaments in a few spheres where it has an advantage, while the United States will preserve and increase its advantage in all other spheres of nuclear armaments.

Like a gambler who is ready to stake his all and to rush blind-folded into an abyss, the secretary of state proclaimed that peace must be based on strength and that the United States believes it to be its duty to promote the gradual evolution of the Soviet system.

Mr. Shultz should know that international relations are not a game of poker and that the ventures of the present U.S. Administration might put on stake the destinies and the very existence of humanity, including the American people.

WEINBERGER REJECTION OF NUCLEAR FREEZE SCORED

LD181909 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Jun 83

[Text] A UP agency telegram from Bowling Green, in the American state of Ohio: Speaking to delegates at a city youth conference there, U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger stated that if there is a nuclear arms freeze, the United States will end up behind. Weinberger descibed a freeze as a dangerous doctrine. Here is the latest news commentary with Anatoliy Doronin at the microphone:

[Doronin] Although the U.S. defense secretary's statement is not an official reply to the USSR Supreme Soviet's proposal to all nuclear powers that a simultaneous freeze be placed on all nuclear weapons they possess, it is nevertheless indicative, first because it expresses the position of the U.S. Administration; and second because Weinberger was speaking after the USSR Supreme Soviet adopted this proposal, and the Pentagon chief was, of course, perfectly aware of it, just as other officials in the U.S. Administration were.

In this speech, Weinberger described the program to increase American nuclear forces and the Soviet-American negotiations being conducted in parallel with this as the path to peace. According to the U.S. defense secretary, or Secretary of State Shultz, or President Reagan himself, peace stands behind every MX missile -- it is not by accident that it is called Peacekeeper -- behind every Pershing, behind every cruise missile and submarine, and behind the new types of weapons now being developed by the Pentagon, while all the advocates of a freeze and disarmament are, they say, to put it mildly, wrong.

The present White House bosses no longer make use of the thesis that the antinuclear movement, including that in the United States itself, is inspired by Moscow. They had to repudiate this clumsy and risible thesis after the majority of Americans came out in favor of curbing the nuclear arms race. They now have another thesis -- a freeze, so they say, will consolidate the nuclear supremacy of the Soviet Union and perpetuate the alleged strategic imbalance. The Russians are coming! The Russians are ahead! The Soviet threat has been widely used throughout the postwar years, but perhaps never so widely as now.

This obvious lie conceals not only the desire to restore the lost might of the United States of bygone days, not only the aspiration to achieve nuclear superiority, but also the mad thirst for profit on the part of forces which are the generator and motive force of the arms race, the military-industrial complex. Its aim, and the aim of political leaders expressing its interests, like Reagan, Weinberger, and their like, consists not in curbing the arms race, for this would mean ruin, ruin first and foremost due to the loss of multibillion dollar orders for the MX and the cruise missiles, the Pershings and Tridents, and so forth. The adventurism of these leaders is capable of leading the world to catastrophe. Their plans can be thwarted only by joint actions on the part of all peace-loving forces.

HARRIMAN REMARKS TO SENATE ON USSR RELATIONS CITED

PM201348 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Jun 83 Morning Edition p 6

[TASS report: "Preserving World Peace"]

[Text] The prominent U.S. political and public figures A. and P. Harriman have addressed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which is currently conducting a hearing on Soviet-American relations.

They expressed great satisfaction with the conversation in Moscow with Yu.V. Andropov, noting that the Soviet leader's pronouncements were marked by "straightforwardness, firmness, and candor."

Former U.S. Ambassador to the USSR A. Harriman said: Yu. V. Andropov expressed quite clearly and, to my mind, sincerely in the conversation a feeling of concern in connection with the growing threat of nuclear war, pointing out that today Soviet people and Americans have a common enemy -- the threat of a war which bears no comparison with past wars in terms of its potentially devastating consequences.

A. Harriman then drew the committee members' attention to the Soviet leader's emphatic commitment to the normalization of Soviet-American relations and their development on a fruitful basis and to joint initiatives capable of helping to mitigate the present acute tension. "The significance of the present situation lies in the fact that it could threaten our trade or our economy," A. Harriman said, "and the fact that in a nuclear age a further deterioration will ultimately jeopardize the national security and even the very existence of the United States. Although both our countries have had nuclear weapons for more than 30 years, there has been no nuclear war. This is our good fortune, and it is this good fortune which has given us a chance. To let this chance go begging would be simply to follow a course which is foolish from the viewpoint of our future national security. We must seek to make the world a safer place.

"That is why," A. Harriman continued, "it is so important to improve relations with our most powerful opponent. We cannot feel comfortable merely in the hope that common sense and reason will always prevail in relations between two superpowers equipped with nuclear weapons, when suspicion, enmity, and fear exist between them.

In the light of the growing nuclear threat, to let things slide, he added, is an unacceptable national policy.

The Harrimans resolutely advocated looking for ways of improving Soviet-American relations in order to preserve world peace. "I believe," A. Harriman said, "that there is no chance of a compromise between us in the ideological sphere. But we must seek ways of settling conflicts in as many spheres as possible in order to live together in our small world without wars."

[Moscos TASS in English at 1235 GMT on 17 June, in a similar report on Harriman's remarks, adds the following: "Despite all the problems which divide the two countries, he said, they have a common stake in preventing nuclear war. It is not only the destinies of the two countries but also the future of all mankind that depend on the solution of this problem. And there is no time to be wasted, Averell Harriman stressed.

"Thomas Watson, the former U.S. ambassador to the USSR, stressed that enormous stockpiles of nuclear weapons have been accumulated in the world. An ominous situation has arisen, but there exists the danger that the arms race will continue at a still faster pace.

"In this connection, Thomas Watson sharply criticised the position of the Reagan administration. Common sense makes it clear that the growth of nuclear arsenals cannot ensure security. Yet the White House demands ever new and new nuclear armaments. Thomas Watson urged the U.S. Congress to use all means at its disposal to make the administration radically change its present policy."]

ANTI-NUCLEAR PROTESTS IN U.S. CITIES REPORTED

LD210750 Moscow TASS in English 0710 GMT 21 Jun 83

[Text] New York June 21 TASS -- The Americans have marked the national day of actions for disarmament with mass protest demonstrations against the nuclear policy

of the Reagan administration. They blocked entrances to military bases, munition factories, ship-building yards and laboratories. Marches of protest, rallies and torch light processions were held in tens of cities in the USA. The demonstrators demanded an end to the insane arms race, a renunciation of the build-up of nuclear arsenals and of the deployment of first-strike missiles "MX", "Pershing-2" and cruise missiles.

The authorities took brutal repressive actions against the demonstrations.

In Groton, Connecticut, some one hundred persons were arrested; in Burlington, Vermont, 130; in West-Milton, New York State, nearly 20; in Livermore, California, more than 800. The police used brutal repressions against almost all the demonstrations, which were held in 25 states of the country, from the East to West Coast. A total of more than 1,100 persons were put behind the bars. But arrests and violence, the organizers of the actions say, will neither stop the American peace movement nor intimidate its participants.

MOSCOW REPORTS CHALLENGER LAUNCH, PENTAGON ROLE

LD181853 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Jun 83

[Text] The American Challenger shuttle spacecraft, with five astronauts on board, was launched from Cape Canaveral in the state of Florida today. The commander of the crew, Robert Crippen, has already carried out a flight on the Columbia spacecraft in April 1981. The other astronauts are Frederick Hauck, pilot; John Fabian, flight engineer; Norman Thagard, doctor. For the first time since space flights began in the United States, the crew includes a woman, 32-year-old Sally Ride, an astrophysicist.

The flight program plans, among other things, to put into orbit two communication satellites, and also to carry out work using an electronic and mechanical manipulator which has been installed in the Challenger's cargo hold.

Commenting on this flight, American observers note that the Pentagon links the shuttle spacecraft flights with far-reaching plans for the militarization of outer space. As BUSINESS WEEK points out, first and foremost it is a question of creating military [boyevoy] orbital stations in space. More than one-third of all flights by spacecraft in the shuttle series have already been earmarked for the Pentagon.

GENERAL STAFF DEPUTY CHIEF AMELKO ON U.S. NAVY

AU151727 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 14 Jun 83 p 3

[Article specially dispatched by APN for the daily NARODNA ARMIYA by Admiral Nikolay Amelko, deputy chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff: "Against Whom Are the U.S. Navy Forces Directed?"]

[Text] Distorted data are frequently being published in the United States and other NATO-member countries about the Soviet Navy for the purpose of supporting the legend about the so-called "Soviet Naval threat." In order to unmask such falsifications, the NOVOSTI agency, at the request of the NARODNA ARMIYA Editorial Board, asked the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces for comparative data about the North American and Soviet Navies. We are submitting the answer of the competent Soviet organs for our readers' attention, thus answering a number of questions on this subject which have been addressed to our Editorial Board.

Admiral Nikolay Amelko, deputy chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff, stated as follows: The U.S. Administration is trying to ensure the strategic superiority of its navy in the world oceans in order to strike Soviet terriotry from the sea.

In an article submitted to APN, Admiral Amelko writes in part that the U.S. Navy staff has frontline formations, which are permanently deployed near the USSR borders, to the west, to the south, and in the Far East. The Soviet Union is actually almost surrounded, from the sea, by nuclear warhead delivery vehicles belonging to the United States. These warheads are capable of striking Soviet territory from a considerable distance.

Constantly stationed thousands of miles from North American shores, in the eastern Mediterranean and in the western Pacific, in areas from which the sea-based air force is capable of reaching the territories of the USSR and of the other socialist countries, are no fewer than four aircraft carriers belonging to the operational U.S. 6th and 7th Fleets. They are carrying on board a total of approximately 160 aircraft equipped with nuclear arms. The operational range of these aircraft permits the aircraft carriers to patrol at a distance of 2,000 km from the potential targets of U.S. Navy attacks.

The following U.S. naval formations have been patrolling the Indian Ocean for several years: 1-2 aircraft carriers, nearly 25 other combat ships, a unit of amphibious forces and nearly 16 transport vessels carrying military equipment. These are striking forces aimed at targets on the territories of foreign states, aimed at naval landing operations and at supporting these operations on shore. Hence, the United States is threatening the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries from the southern strategic zone.

The Soviet Union, two-thirds of whose borders are sea borders (twice as long as the total length of the U.S. Atlantic and Pacific shores), has every reason to evaluate the presence of the U.S. and NATO-member countries' aircraft carriers (totalling 16) in the immediate vicinity of the Soviet borders as a threat to Soviet security from the west, from the Far East and from the south. Such threats are quite realistic. They are confirmed by the scenarios of numerous NATO naval exercises, as well as by the operational targets of the aforementioned aircraft carriers and by the tasks which are being accomplished during NATO military exercises.

In order to neutralize this threat, the USSR has counterposed to the NATO naval forces its own ships, submarines and aircraft, capable of carrying weapons and striking at the enemy's aircraft carriers with considerable effectiveness before the aircraft have taken off and, above all, before their stormtroopers, equipped with nuclear weapons, have left. A limited number of formations of Soviet military ships and the forces operating them are observing the actions of the U.S. striking forces at sea. These Soviet formations are permanently stationed in those waters where the deployed forces of the North American navy are directed against the USSR.

Thus, for example, the Soviet Union has half the units of the United States stationed in the Mediterranean. This fact shows that the presence of Soviet vessels is due to the legitimate interests of our state to safeguard its security. The Soviet Union has dispatched antisubmarine defense ships, destroyers, cruisers, and other vessels to neutralize the U.S. naval forces in this area.

We can mention the lack of vessels like the North American aircraft carriers as an indication of the defensive character of the Soviet Navy.

However, we must consider that the numerical superiority of Soviet submarines, to a certain extent, serves as a factor discouraging the NATO-member countries from using the aircraft carriers.

Certain NATO publications are trying to point out that Soviet vessels "might possibly act" against Atlantic communications as an example of the "aggressive role" of the Soviet Navy. It is, however, appropriate to remark that the United States by no means intends to send tourists or entertainment groups to Europe, but rather to supply military equipment and troop contingents which are supposed to be included in the military operations against the USSR and other socialist countries. It would be useful to point out in this context that the operations of the Soviet naval forces will have a distinctly defensive character aimed at foiling the predatory aspirations of the United States on the European Continent.

Naturally, the Soviet Union, in adopting certain measures to safeguard its own security, does not intend to threaten the shores of any other states. Nor is there such a concentration of Soviet naval forces in any ocean as the landing equipment of the NATO-member countries, including those of the United States. The amphibious forces of this aggressive bloc are capable of simultaneously transferring a total of 90,000 men and almost 2,000 units of military technical equipment. Expressed in military terms, this means that they are capable of implementing two large operational and operational-strategic landings.

The defense functions of the Soviet Navy are based on the Soviet military doctrine, which has an overtly defensive character. It is based on the idea that military force has to be used as a means of protecting the peaceful labor of the Soviet people. "Everything achieved by the people must be reliably protected" -- this is the basic principle of military organization in the Soviet Union. Precisely in accordance with this principle the USSR was forced to adopt a number of adequate measures for the consolidation of its naval forces so that they may be capable of worthily resisting the aggressor should it unleash a war.

U.S. ADMIRAL ADVOCATES PACIFIC MILITARY BUILDUP

LD151039 Moscow TASS in English 0732 GMT 15 Jun 83

[Text] Washington June 15 TASS -- The Pentagon is hatching plans to further increase U.S. military presence in a vast region of the Pacific for the purpose of escalating international tension. This was stated point-blank by the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces in that region Admiral R. Long.

Speaking at a press conference here, he stressed that the U.S. should be a fully Pacific power and advocated in this connection the build-up in the region of the numerical strength of the naval force, in the first place, as well as of tactical air force. The admiral views the world situation as a series of "regional confrontations" with the Soviet Union, and for this reason, as he alleged, Washington needs " sufficient military might," including nuclear might. Admiral R. Long stressed that nuclear weapons were the inalienable part of the overall U.S. weapons arsenals, which are regarded by the U.S. both as a military force and as important political force, in other words, as a means of blackmail and intimidation of other countries.

PRAVDA ON NEW COMPOSITION OF PRC STATE COUNCIL

PM211033 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Jun 83 First Edition p 5

[Beijing dispatch: "National People's Congress Session"]

[Text] Berlin, 20 June (TASS) -- The current First Session of the Sixth National People's Congress of the PRC has today endorsed a new composition of the country's government -- the PRC State Council.

According to a XINHUA report, on the proposal of Zhao Ziyang, premier of the State Council, Wan Li, Yao Yilin, Li Peng and Tian Jiyun have been endorsed as vice premiers of the PRC State Council. The new composition of the State Council also includes members of the State Council, ministers, chairmen of state committees and commissions. Wu Xueqian has remained in the post of foreign minister and Zhang Aiping as defense minister.

The session has endorsed the appointment of Ye Jianying, Xu Xiangqian, Nie Rongzheng and Yang Shangkun as vice chairmen of the Central Commission. The session has also elected a chairman of the Supreme People's Court and procurator general of the Supreme People's Procuratorate.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA NOTES ELECTIONS AT NPC SESSION

PM211112 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Jun 83 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "PRC National People's Congress Session"]

[Text] Beijing, 20 Jun -- A plenary session has been held at the First Session of the Sixth PRC National People's Congress [NPC] at which elections of China's state leaders and members of the NPC Standing Committee were held.

As XINHUA reports, Li Xiannian has been elected president of the PRC and Ulanhu has been elected vice president. Peng Zhen has become chairman of the NPC Standing Committee and Deng Xiaoping has become chairman of the Central Military Commission. On the proposal of the PRC President, the NPC session adopted a decision to reappoint Zhao Ziyang premier of the PRC State Council.

COMMENTARY HITS PRC 'PROPAGANDA' ON ARMS RACE

OW202202 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 20 Jun 83

[Shakov commentary]

[Text] Political activists and mass media in most countries of the world continue to pay great attention to the Soviet Union's new proposal that all nuclear powers freeze all their existing nuclear arms quantiatively and qualitatively. Station commentator Shakov expresses his view on the significance of the proposal:

Recent events have again demonstrated that the policies of the Soviet Union and the United States are exactly opposite. In Moscow, at the plenary session of the CPSU Central Committee and the meeting of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the Soviet Union's peace-loving policies and its wish to ensure peace and eliminate the threat of thermonuclear diaster have once again been affirmed. Among the whole set of measures that have been put forward to achieve these objectives is the new Soviet proposal that all nuclear powers freeze their own nuclear weapons of all kinds.

Recently the U.S. Congress, owing to the firm request of the present U.S. Administration, approved the deployment of the new MX missiles. Conspicuously, it was during the past few days that the Pentagon carried out another test of this missile.

These events not only are different in meaning but are aimed at opposite goals. The Soviet Union is trying to make every effort to limit the arms race and proceed toward nuclear arms reduction. The U.S. ruling clique is trying to maintain its military superiority over the Soviet Union and launching one round in the arms race after another.

The official spokesman of the three Western nuclear powers have all hastily expressed negative attitudes toward the Soviet proposal on freezing nuclear weapons. This fact explains a lot of things. These people, to save themselves the trouble of finding a reason, rejected the Soviet proposal on the grounds that it contained nothing new. You probably will agree, that this is an absurd attitude. It should be clear that whether the proposal is new or old, is absolutely of no importance. What is important is that the proposal offers a way to prevent a new round of nuclear arms race and to eliminate the threat of a thermonuclear catastrophe.

This negative attitude of the imperialists is contrary to the fundamental interests of the people of all countries who wish to safeguard world peace. In this light, the fact that newspapers and periodicals in China have begun to report in detail these negative statements is at least puzzling. People are likely to have the impression that the reaction of the Chinese propaganda organs proves that they are not in favor of the peaceful policies of the Soviet Union.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL'S 'ANTI-SOVIET' REMARK SCORED

OW191429 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 17 Jun 83

[Yuriy Afonin commentary]

[Text] According to Japanese newspaper reports, Justice Minister Hatano, addressing a recent meeting of public security chiefs, advised them to tighten control over activities of radical groups in Japan which seek liaison with outside forces. In so doing, he dropped a very clear hint that outside forces means, first of all, the Soviet Union. Radio Moscow Commentator Yuriy Afonin has the following comment:

This anti-Soviet attack by the Japanese justice minister is nothing new. In regard to this and many other areas, the Japanese Government has been following Washington's lead in recent years. It is none other than the President of the United States who unhesitatingly declared that he sees the Soviet Union as the focus of evil, that is, the source of all difficulties and troubles facing the United States in today's world.

Washington would never miss an opportunity to blame the Soviet Union — after everything ranging from the Salvadoran people's struggle against the traitorous military regime to an abortive attempt on the Pope's life. Its accusations are so farfetched and unfounded that even U.S. allies would hesitate to lend them support. Hence, whenever this or that extraordinarily zealous ally makes comments along the line of the American anti-Soviet rhetoric, it makes Washington extremely happy. The remark by Justice Minister Hatano is one such comment.

It is a well-known fact that the Reagan administration spares no effort to make the Soviet Union look like the godfather of international terrorism and its major guardian before world public opinion. It is equally well known that it has failed so far in this attempt.

It is no secret that the communists have nothing to do with terrorism whatsoever and that they totally reject terrorism as a means of political struggle. Nevertheless, Washington's anti-Soviet propaganda fiction is about to be repeated in Tokyo this time. There is no doubt that however desperate Tokyo may become to seek out a nonexistent hand of Moscow, it will be a futile effort.

This is not the first time that the Japanese reactionaries have tried to find what is called Moscow's hand. Such campaigns were staged many times in the past as a pretext to oppress Japanese democratic and reformist forces. In the prewar period alone, similar fabrications were used as a means to tighten the applications of the Maintenance of Public Order Act and other oppressive laws. Again, in the notorious "Red purge" era in the early 1950's, when thousands of communists, unionists, and other people were subjected to suppression, there was a clamor about what was called a hand of Moscow.

The purpose of Japanese public security agencies' current attempt to establish or fabricate links between radical groups and the Soviet Union is an ambitious one. They are trying to pave the way for future legislation to restrict democratic liberties and activities of democratic groups. At the same time, it should not be overlooked that the attempt is another in the series of frantic moves in the anti-Soviet campaign. Through this attempt the Japanese reactionaries seek to spawn distrust and suspicion about the Soviet Union among the Japanese people.

However, in view of the fact that organizers of the anti-Soviet campaign are coming up each time with a new and increasingly illusionary fiction to attract, even briefly, attention of some mass media which are thirsty for sensational topics, if not the attention of the masses, it can be said that not all is going well with them.

Needless to say, slanderous fictions about the Soviet Union are not in the interest of the promotion of good-neighborly relations between the two nations. However, this is a matter of little concern to certain strata of people in Japan who always choose to be out-and-out pro-Washington and think that doing so is the only way to accomplish the political task facing Japan.

The Japanese justice minister's anti-Soviet attack can be regarded as a product of the present international situation. The aforementioned "red purge" could occur only in the cold war climate of those days; likewise, the current anti-Soviet campaign is a product of the international tension created and fanned by U.S. imperialism.

However, this campaign is further aggravating tension. This fact runs counter to the interests of all the world people, including the Japanese people. Doing away with anti-Soviet slanders will evidently contribute to promoting a healthy atmosphere between the Soviet Union and Japan.

JAPANESE CITIZENS LAUD SOVIET AIRLINE ANNIVERSARY

LD171522 Moscow TASS in English 1501 GMT 17 Jun 83

[Text] Niigata June 17 TASS -- TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin reports:

The residents of the Japanese town of Niigata met the passengers of the "TU-154 liner, which arrived here today from Khabarovsk, with bouquets of live flowers. "Let the good-neighbourly links between Japan and the USSR be developing," ran the streamers which decorated the airport building, where the ceremony was held to mark the 10th anniversary of the regular Khabarovsk-Niigata airline. The ceremony was attended by the Soviet delegation, who arrived here.

"Niigata and Khabarovsk are twinned towns, and we are striving to see to it that the airline which binds them should become the route of real friendship and good-neighbourliness," the TASS correspondent has been told by Niigata Mayor Genki Wakasugi. In conditions of the depression that has hit Japan the residents of our area lay particular hopes on the development of business relations with the USSR. We believe that the completion of the construction of the Baikal-Amur mainline, impressive by its proportions, will lend a fresh impetus to Soviet-Japanese relations. Trade and industrial firms of our prefecture and the whole coast of the Sea of Japan hope that the development of the vast area around the route will bring them new orders from the Soviet side."

SRV'S LE DUAN ON WORLD, REGIONAL ISSUES

PM201454 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jun 83 First Edition p 4

[Text] Hanoi, 15 Jun (TASS) -- Addressing a conference of the Hanoi city party organization here, Le Duan, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, noted that an extraordinarily dangerous situation has taken shape in the world through the fault of the U.S. imperialists and their allies. The U.S. Administration is lashing on the arms race and stoking tension in various parts of the world.

Under these conditions, he said, the forthcoming Prague World assembly "For Peace and Life and Against Nuclear War" will be a demonstration of the firm will and immeasurable strength of the peoples who oppose the imperialists' bellicose plans and seek to eliminate the threat of nuclear conflict. The Vietnamese people are fully determined to make a fitting contribution to the defense of peace throughout the world.

The CPV Central Committee general secretary resolutely denounced Beijing's provocative actions and objectives with respect to Vietnam and the other Indochina countries, noting that this course enjoys the support of U.S. imperialism.

The strength of the socialist system is on our side, he said. We act in the unified alliance of the three Indochina peoples. We have relations of all-around cooperation with the Soviet Union and ties of cohesion with the other fraternal socialist countries, and we are supported by the revlutionary and progressive forces of the whole planet.

Touching on the activity of the Hanoi party organization, the largest in the country, Le Duan stressed that recent years have been a period of great achievements for the Vietnamese people. The progress in Hanoi's development is also gratifying. It is this, he stressed, which is the determining aspect of the SRV's present position. But to fulfill the two main tasks of building and defending the motherland, a great deal more time and effort is needed and many difficulties have to be surmounted.

PRAVDA ON START OF 'USSR DAYS' IN KAMPUCHEA

PM200915 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Jun 83 First Edition p 1

[Text] Phnom Penh, 8 Jun (TASS) -- The USSR Days in the PRK have been inaugurated by a ceremonial meeting of represntatives of Kampuchean society. The meeting's participants emphasized that Kampuchean-Soviet friendship and cooperation is steadily strengthening and developing. The Soviet machinery working in the rice fields and the help which the USSR is giving in training skilled specialists for various sectors of Kampuchea's national economy are graphic evidence of this. The support being extended to the PRK by the Soviet Union and other fraternal socialist countries is a reliable guarantee of the Kampuchean revolution's complete victory and of the definitive crushing of the plans of imperialism and international reactionary forces to restore the bloody, genocidal regime in Kampuchea.

The meeting participants pointed out that the Soviet Union's support for the three Indochina states' peace initiatives aimed at resolving the problems of Southeast Asia by peaceful means and creating an atmosphere of peace and statibily in the region is of particularly great significance.

The program for the USSR Days in the PRK is wide and varied. A photographic exhibition recounting the USSR's economic and social development and the successes achieved by the land of the soviets in building communism has opened in Phnom Penh.

MSZMP LEADERS VISIT SOUTHERN GROUP FORCES

PM210955 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Jun 83 Second Edition p 5

[Report by Colonel V. Mamontov: "Visit to Soviet Servicemen"]

[Text] Karoly Nemeth and Mihaly Korom, members of the MSZMP Central Committee Politburo and secretaries of the MSZMP Central Committee, and Sandor Racz, member of the MSZMP Central Committee and chief of a Central Committee section, have visited guards aviation and motor rifle units of the Southern Group of Forces. They familiarized themselves with the life and routine of the airmen and motor rifle troops and observed subunits in action at a tactical field firing exercise.

A Soviet-Hungarian friendship rally was held in the motor rifle unit club. It was addressed by Karoly Nemeth, member of the MSZMP Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee. He spoke about the Hungarian people's achievements in fulfilling the 12th MSZMP Congress decisions and the development of friendly ties between the MSZMP and the CPSU, the Hungarian and Soviet peoples, and the servicemen of the fraternal armies, and wished the Group of Forces' personnel further successes in fulfilling their patriotic and international duty. Comrade Karoly Nemeth presented the servicemen with a memento symbolizing the indestructible unity of our socialist Warsaw Pact membre countries.

Colonel General K. Kochetov, commander of the Southern Group of Forces, and Lieutenant General N. Shevkun, member of the Military Council and chief of the Group of Forces Political Directorate, who took part in the meeting, expressed gratitude to the distinguished guests for their good wishes and concern for Soviet servicemen's life and welfare.

CPSU DELEGATION STUDIES CPCZ AGRARIAN POLICY

LD161157 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Jun 83 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Exchange of Experience"]

[Text] In accordance with the plan for interparty ties between the CPSU and the CPCZ, a delegation of CPSU party workers headed by A.N. Kashtanov, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Agriculture and Food Industry Section, was in the CSSR 6-11 June. It acquainted itself with the CPCZ experience in the implementation of its agrarian policy. The delegation was received by F. Pitra, secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee.

LCY WORRIED BY LOW NUMBER OF WORKERS IN PARTY

PM161406 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Jun 83 First Edition p 5

[Dispatch by TASS correspondent A. Mineyev published under the rubric "Fraternal Newspapers" and the general heading "Topical Subjects": "At the Center of Attention"]

[Text] Belgrade, 14 Jun -- Measures to consolidate the party ranks have been described as the most important ideological and political task by the LCY organ KOMUNIST. Recently, the weekly writes, the question of the need to increase the numbers of party members has been examined in a number of party forums in republics and regions. This analysis was based upon the propositions of the 12th LCY Congress, which voiced concern that the proportion of workers in the party has practically not increased.

The weekly gives as an example certain data from the life of party organizations in Voivodina. Last year, over half the primary cells in the region did not admit a single new member from among the workers to their ranks. Furthermore, in 20 municipal organizations the proportion of workers has even fallen. KOMUNIST advocates the preparation and implementation of a number of measures to ensure the growth of party ranks. This task must be the center of attention for communists during the forthcoming report and election campaign, the weekly concludes.

'NEW FACTS' ON CIA PLOT AGAINST BULGARIA

LD140641 Moscow TASS in English 0610 GMT 14 Jun 83

[Text] Moscow June 14 TASS -- "New facts on the Antonov 'case' indicate that the U.S. special services' attack against Bulgaria was far from being fortuitous and was directed, in particular, by a special unit set up on the initiative of CIA Director William Casey," writes SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA.

By a signal given by the CIA, the article says, mass media and some government bodies, individual officials, and so-called Sovietologists of the USA, and finally CIA agents proper, raised an unprecedented noise, spreading crude fabrications to the effect that the Turkish neofascist-terrorist Agca who made an assassination attempt on the pope was allegedly a "tool in the hands of the Bulgarians" and that his shots in the St. Peter Square in Rome allegedly exposed a "special communist plan."

"In line with a specified scenario of the CIA, a special committee of U.S. 'reproached' the Italian judiciary that it ostensibly does not see the existing connection between Agca's assassination attempt on the pope and Bulgarian representatives in Italy. In order to 'open' the eyes of the Italian justice, Judge Ilario Martella was invited to Washington, according to the French L'EXPRESS magazine, and later issued an instruction to arrest Sergey Antonov."

"The U.S. special services have drawn not only the Italian judiciary into the provocative operation," SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA points out, "but also their own colleagues from the intelligence and counter-intelligence services of Italy, with whom they more than once participated in ventures. It was, doubtless, owing to their joint intrigues that Agca, whose testimony, after he was sentenced to life imprisonment, was adopted as the basis for groundless accusations against Sergey Antonov, never was turned over to the Turkish authorities that had sentenced him to death. It was more important to keep Agca in Rome where he could talk at the bidding of NATO secret services."

SPANISH PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON

LD210505 Moscow TASS in English 0451 GMT 21 Jun 83

[Text] Washington June 21 TASS — Prime Minister of Spain Felipe Gonzalez has come to Washington for an official visit. He is to have negotiations with representatives of the American Administration on a broad range of bilateral and international problems, specifically the question of Spain's NATO membership, East-West Relations, the situation in Central America.

The Reagan administration intends to use the visit of the Spanish prime minister for exerting pressure upon Spain so as to tie up the country closer to the militarist chariot of the United States and NATO, to draw it into the military structure of the bloc. The cause of Washington's obvious discontent is the Spanish Government's expressed intention to "freeze" the process of Spain's integration with NATO, to hold a referendum on this issue. On the eve of the visit a high-placed representative of the U.S. Government stated that Spain's NATO membership would be one of the main items of the negotiations.

Washington is insistently pressing that Madrid should broaden bilateral American-Spanish military "cooperation". The representative of the administration stressed that the United States was interested in maintaining strong links with Spain in the sphere of security.

Much attention at the negotiations is to be paid to the situation in Central America where Washington's military interference is escalating. During his recent tour of the countries of the region Felipe Gonzalez criticized the U.S. policy in Central America.

WEINBERGER LEAVES FOR 2-DAY VISIT TO UK

LD210455 Moscow TASS in English 0436 GMT 21 Jun 83

[Text] Washington, June 21 TASS — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger has left for a two-day official visit to Britain. He is to have negotiations with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine, and Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe.

The official aim of the visit is to enlist, after the parliamentary elections in Britain, the guarantees of further consolidation of military cooperation between Washington and the Conservative Thatcher government. But, as is noted here, the main attention at the negotiations is to be paid to questions of speeded up prepatations for the deployment in Britain of American cruise missiles late this year.

UK'S HESELTINE ON INTENTION TO DEPLOY MISSILES

LD171251 Moscow TASS in English 1316 GMT 17 Jun 83

[Text] London June 17 TASS — TASS correspondent Valeriy Maysuradze reports:

The British Conservative Government is intent on further stepping up the nuclear arms race and military preparations. This follows from a statement made by Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine.

Speaking at a press conference here the British defence secretary confirmed the intention of the Margaret Thatcher Cabinet to begin, towards the end of this year, the deployment of American cruise missiles in British territory and set about "modernising" the British atomic submarine fleet.

Trying to justify the militaristic policy of the Tory Cabinet and its blind following in the wake of Washington's adventurist policy Heseltine mentioned a certain "mandate" allegedly given to the Conservative government by the British people during the recent general elections. He asserted that the Tory election victory testified to the public "approval" of the policy of the Thatcher Cabinet, specifically its policy in respect of nuclear armaments.

But already on the first day of the work of the newly elected British Parliament, hundreds of British peace champions picketed the Westminster Palace in protest against the reckless nuclear policy of the Conservative government. Public opinion polls show that the overwhelming majority of the people in Britain do not want their country to be made a launching site for new American nuclear missiles.

MOSCOW PAPERS ON FRANCE'S RELATIONS WITH NATO

'Toeing the Line'

PM161211 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 11 Jun 83 First Edition p 3

[E. Kovalev commentary: "The Price of a Miscalculation"]

[Text] The whole world's attention was attracted by the fact that after a long interval Paris was chosen as the venue for the current Atlantic ministerial meeting. It is indeed an unusual event. The NATO foreign ministers have met in France for the first time in the last 17 years, for the first time since 1966 when President de Gaulle expelled the NATO headquarters from the French capital and took his country out of the military organization of the North Atlantic bloc. And although France still remains formally outside the framework of NATO's military structure, one cannot fail to see the ostentatious invitiation to Paris of the North Atlantic alliance's leading figures as a clear departure from the former independent French policy in international affairs and a further slide toward "Atlanticism." True, to start with, the French External Relations Ministry tried, as it were, to explain this choice by "purely routine considerations" and by the need for "geographical rotation." However, a few days later, members of Mitterrand's presidential office staff resolutely rejected this lightwieght version. The Elysee Palace confirmed that the invitation to NATO foreign ministers was not a freak of the calendar, but the result of a well-considered important political step taken by President Mitterrand and his government. France, it was stated there, was fully prepared to discharge all its obligations ensuring from its membership of NATO. "According to French official sources," a NEW YORK TIMES commentary stressed, "this means that France wants to confirm its role as an important factor" in the West's military endeavors.

Judging by appearances, it is no accident that Paris has in recent days hosted a whole series of overtly militarist NATO meetings and conferences. These included a routine West European Union session at which French External Relations Minister Cheysson declared support for the implementaton of the NATO "missile plans." An international gathering of NATO's "Geopolitics Institute" has also been held there at which all kind of cock-and-bull stories about the socialist community countries' foreign policy were publicized.

Incidentally, the United States had exactly on the eve of the Paris session sharply stepped up pressure on the allies to secure their unanimous support -- "In most resolute tones" (as U.S. State Secretary Shultz put it) -- for the decision on deploying new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in West Europe. Washington is doing its utmost "to persuade" the allies unconditionally to support the U.S. position at the Geneva talks. As the Western progressive press notes, the U.S. goal is to lead these talks into an impasse and then, blaming the Soviet Union's "intractability," embark on the deployment of Pershing II and cruise missiles in Europe. The NATO Council session in Paris thus assumes a special and sinister meaning in the current international situation.

The international press has claimed that at the recent Williamsburg meeting of leaders from the world's seven leading capitalist countries France toed Washington's line on political and military problems and got practically nothing in return in the economic sphere. The U.S. policy in international capitalist economic relations, which is disadvantageous for France, has not changed in the least: the Americans continue to play for a high dollar exchange rate, U.S. bank interest rates remain high, and the "trade war" started by the Americans against their European partners is being actively continued. The Paris stock exchnage did not take long to react to all this with another fall in the franc exchange rate to a record low as against the U.S. dollar. The well informed and influential Paris newspaper LE MONDE supplies a precise and definite answer to the question of what policy France is allying itself with today in receiving NATO ministers in its capital: "From the political viewpoint," it stresses, "The holding of the NATO meeting in Paris confirms that France is increasingly following in the wake of U.S. policy." Who stands to gain most from the pro-Atlantic position of the French Government? The Reagan administration, without any doubt, which is doing all in its power to stifle France economically....

"We are very satisfied with what is happening," is the transatlantic comment on the subject of the NATO Council session in Paris. Spelling it out, a TV commentator on the French Antenne-2 channel has emphasized that this has become possible thanks to a "drastic thaw" in relations between France and NATO.

It must be noted that France's new position is strikingly different from, for example, the position of such NATO members as Greece or Spain, where governments are in power which have also been formed by socialist parties and which -- in varying degrees -- are expressing reservations about NATO's aggressive military programs. The French position does not coincide either with the Danish Parliament's recently adopted decision in which it comes out against beginning the deployment of new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in West Europe at the end of the current year.

In Paris they have long grown accustomed to claiming that France allegedly is completely outside NATO's sphere of military and political influence, thereby justifying its unwillingness to count the French nuclear arms as part of the overall balance of NATO medium-range forces in Europe. Now France's close attachment to the U.S. and NATO policy and to their military strategy completely cuts the ground from under the feet of the adherents of this opinion.

'Total Solidarity'

PM161526 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Jun 83 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "A Departure From De Gaulle's Course"]

[Text] Paris, 10 Jun -- French President F. Mitterrand spoke on one of the television channels here and touched on a number of domestic and international problems.

The crisis in the Western world, he said in part, is greater than it has ever been since the great crisis of 1929 and 1930. In those conditions the French Government is pursuing a policy of "austerity and economy."

Dwelling on international problems, F. Mitterrand achknowledged that "there exists a strategic forces balance between the United States and the Soviet Union." At the same time, the president asserted that there is no such balance in Europe and that allegedly it must be restored "by means of the deployment of U.S. missiles on the European Continent." Once again F. Mitterrand opposed the inclusion of French nuclear weapons in the overall strategic balance.

Recently there has been wide discussion among political commentators in the French capital of the continuing shift in the French Government's military policy in the direction of French cooperation with NATO. In this context attention is drawn to a pronouncement by French National Defense Minister C. Hernu during a visit to the FRG in the company of the chief of staff of the French Armed Forces. C. Hernu confimred "France's total solidarity" with its European NATO allies.

The French minister placed within the same framework of augmenting military cooperation with the NATO allies the planned creation of the so-called "Rapid Action Force," analogous to the U.S. "Rapid Deployment Forces," which, the minister said, is to markedly increase France's potential for using its Armed Forces beyond its national borders. This was not long after French Armed Forces Chief of Staff J. Lacaze had stated that the planned reorganization of French Ground Forces, which is part of the military program for 1984-1988, stems from the need to create conditions whereby some French troops with conventional armaments can link up quickly with allied forces "at the first sign of a crisis in Europe." All this indicates that France and its military strategy are moving closer and closer to NATO military strategy. And although the French Government has not been in the NATO military organization since the days of President C. De Gaulle the French strategic military concept formulated for 1984-88 distinctly shows this trend.

Political commentators are asking the question: Is anything left of General C. De Gaulle's foreign policy course and military strategy? French official representatives' actions and speeches show a departure from the foundations of France's foreign policy course and military strategy laid by De Gaulle.

'Loyal, Consistent Partner'

LD191333 Moscow TASS in English 1303 GMT 19 Jun 83

["Toeing Washington's Line" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow June 19 TASS -- TASS commentator Vladimir Matyash writes: France is busily raising a French "Quick Reaction Force" modelled on the U.S. "Rapid Deployment Force", it follows from an interview granted by French Defense Minister Charles Hernu to the newspaper LE MONDE. He said that the formation of this force is an important element of the projected reorganization of the French Army. Some of the force's bigger units have already been designated. They include the 9th Marine Division, the 11th Airborne Division, and the 27th Mountain Rifle Division. These units, which are armed with anti-tank missiles, will soon also get atni-aircraft missiles. They will also be joined by two more divisions.

Thus, a major mobile expeditionary corps is being set up, which will be able to carry out operations in different parts of the world.

The prime aim of the "Quick Reaction Force", the French defence minister admitted, is to conduct operations abroad "where the government deems this necessary". Hernu stated bluntly that "France is and will be a loyal and consistent partner in the Atlantic alliance".

All this, according to the newspaper LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS, cannot but have political consequences. As to the European theatre of operations, the "Quick Reaction Force's mission there will be to enter battle jointly with the armed forces of NATO.

"This time it has become crystal clear that, in the event of hostilities, France will from the very beginning be fighting shoulder-to-shoulder with the United States and West Germany against the Soviet Union," the paper said.

This further confirms Paris's pronounced gravitation towards getting back into the NATO military wing. As General Lacaze, chief of staff of the French Armed Forces, recently declared, France is taking into account in raising the "Quick Reaction Force" the necessity of quickly assigning part of its troops with conventional armaments of NATO allied troops "in the event of a contingency in Europe". For his part, Hernu reaffirmed "France's solidarity with its European NATO allies", "the interdependence of the armed forces of both countries" and "the need for even closer cooperation between them".

Sailing in the wake of Washington and NATO as a whole, of course, cannot facilitate the limitation of the arms race and the relaxation of international tension, which are urged by the peace-loving, including French, public.

FRANCE'S 'UNCHANGED' AFRICA POLICY CRITICIZED

PM101056 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No 22 May 83 pp 10-12

[V. Midtsev article: "The Same Course: France's African Policy"]

[Text] The break-up of the colonial system has dealt a strong blow to the French monopolies. Twenty independent states have arisen on the ruins of large French colonial empire in Africa. The question of relations between France and African countries is always included in the platforms of French political parties, and the election contest of 1981 was no exception. During the elections the Socialist leaders sharply criticized armed intervention in the internal affairs of Zaire, Mauritania, and Central Africa. It was noted that this intervention impaired the international prestige of France, and the need was stressed for revising the "defence treaties" concluded with African countries. Francois Mitterrand severely attacked the neo-colonialist policy of his predecessors and the United States. France, it was said, must pursue a "great African policy," defending the newly free nations against the industrial states.

What has changed in the African policy of France during the past two years? Relations with a number of countries, Benin, Madagascar, and Congo in particular, have improved somewhat, and ties with some former Portuguese and British colonies have been extended. However, many old principles and neo-colonialist objectives have remained essentially unchanged.

Let us first consider military policy. France still keeps its "Rapid Assistance Force" intended mainly for colonial operations on the continent. The strength of the French troops capable of waging military operations of this kind has been increased, not cut, since the 1981 election, the French weekly JEUNE AFRIQUE writes. "Rapid Assistance Force" units (totalling 13,000 servicemen) are stationed in Brittany, on Corsica, and in southern France. As before, they can be airlifted at any moment to any African country where a "critical situation" arises or, more precisely, where French interests have been put in jeopardy.

France is the only Western country to keep regular troops in Africa.

Along with military advisers, they number over 14,000 according to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, special land, naval, and air force units are stationed at the French military bases and strongholds stretching from Djibouti to Dakar. "Defence" treaties and agreements on military and technical cooperation are still in effect with Senegal, the Ivory Coast, Gabon, Djibouti, and the Central African Republic. There are also military bases there, and joint exercises are regularly held with the participation of additional French land, Air Force, and naval units.

Officially, France has no military bases in Togo and Cameroon. But it maintains military co-operation with these countries on the basis of former "defence" treaties and military agreements enabling French troops to use local airfields and bases. Military and technical assistance is being given to Niger and Upper Volta.

Not a single bilateral "defence" treaty concluded by President Mitterrand's predecessors has been denounced in the past two years. If a situation identical to that in the Zairean province of Shaba in 1978 recurs tomorrow, there should be no doubt, JUENE AFRIQUE wrote, that the action plan which led to intervention then could be repeated in general outline since, despite the "change" that occurred on May 10, 1981, France's African policy maintains continuity in this sphere.

As before, military co-operation is widely used also as a means of penetrating the national armies of African states and subordinating their command personnel. This is done mainly through 600 French military advisers and numerous agents. Here too, continuity is maintained -- with a long-range objective, moreover.

Another fact is worthy of note: Distrustful of many aspects of French foreign policy, Washington is nevertheless at one with it in propping up the reactionary regimes in some of the former French colonies and other countries, Zaire for instance. It is believed overseas that such a position strengthens the West's common front against the developing countries of Africa. Of course, this does not prevent Washington from encroaching on the positions of its French partner whenever possible. Paris is deeply concerned about the fact that the Americans have acquired the right to use Moroccan military bases and that U.S. corporations are showing an increased interest in the bauxite deposits in Guinea, the copper and cobalt deposits in Zaire, and the uranium ores in Gabon, Niger, and Namibia.

In the past few years, the French leaders have declared themselves "defenders of the poor countries against neo-colonialism;" against those "who speculate on the raw materials markets and decide the fate of the countries fully dependent on the export of only one or two products," like coffee, cocoa-beans, bauxites, or copper. But the situation on the world capitalist market is such that African is compelled to defend itself even against its unbidden "defenders" -- the developed capitalist countries, France included. The profits gained by France from its trade with Africa -- trade much more advantageous to France than to its partners -- are so high that they more than compensate the French investments on the continent.

The penetration of French companies into Africa has assumed unprecedented proportions. Some 60,000 French are now living in the Ivory Coast, six times more than before independence. The French community in Gabon numbers 25,000 people -- 3,000 more than 20 years ago. As many as 20,000 French are living in Senegal. France grants loans and credits to its former colonies. But most of them are conditional on the purchase of goods France wants to sell or the manufacture of goods it wants to buy. It may be asked: Is it really to France's credit that it promises to allocate 0.52 percent of its gross national product in 1983 and 0.7 per cent starting in 1988 "for development purposes"? The French monopolies, like those of other Western countries, multiply their profits on each franc invested in the former colonies.

Paris is constantly urging the other capitalist countries (and even non-capitalist countries, though they took no part in and bear no responsibility for the plundering of colonies) to increase expenditures on assistance to the developing nations. Are not calls of this kind dictated by a desire to shift part of its non-too-onerous burden onto other states? For how else can one explain the fact that Paris has no intention of taking measures to restrict the rapacious plunder by French companies of the raw-material and manpower resources of developing countries.

French officials often express regret over the fact that the United States displays "egoism" and creates an "intolerable situation" in the world economy, thereby causing much harm to the developing countries. But regrets of this kind are motivated not so much by concern for the "poor countries" as by fears over the intensified economic expansionism of the United States in Africa and other regions where French big business would like to take root.

Two years ago, Paris vowed to urge economic sanctions against racist South Africa and to back the "Front-Line States" and the national liberation movements in southern Africa. It promised that, in agreement with the United Nations and jointly with other countries, France would advance a new initiative on the Namibian question if the "Contact Group," which, besides France, includes the United States, Britain, West Germany and Canada, did not resume its activity for the liberation of Namibia. The "Contact Group" is still inactive, yet nothing has been heard so far about new French initiatives.

The same can be said of the economic boycott of South Africa. There can be no talk of such a boycott if France continues to trade with the racist regime and is carrying out such multibillion contracts as the building of a nuclear reactor -- incidentally without any firm guarantees that it will not be used for military purposes.

A year after Francois Mitterrand became President, Robert du Plooy, the South African ambassador in Paris, said he had noticed no change in the economic relations between the two countries, and described them as "very good." Noting the growth of French imports of South African coal and Namibian uranium, he said this meant in fact that "25 per cent of the electricity consumed in France is provided by South Africa." The contracts for the delivery to France of titanium, chromium, and other strategic materials also remain operative. For its part, France sends South Africa a great deal of heavy and electronic equipment and chemical products. The French Government, the Senegalese magazine AFRICA points out, is not in the least concerned about the fact that some of the goods exported by France are intended for military purposes -- and that despite the embargo imposed by the previous President in 1977.

True, direct supplies of French arms to South Africa seem to have been discontinued. But before the embargo was declared, France sold South Africa about 80 Mirage III and Mirage F-1 fighters, nine large transport planes, more than 120 helicopters, three submarines, and other armaments. At the same time, neither the "Front-Line States" nor the national liberation movements have received any significant aid from France. On the whole, its policy follows the pattern of the neocolonialist manoeuvres of Washington and other Western patrons of South African racism.

Within a short space of time President Mitterrand has made three trips to Africa. Commenting on them, LE MONDE wrote: "The French Government -- Gaullist the day before yesterday, Liberal yesterday and Socialist today -- intends to maintain its ties with its former colonies south of the Sahara." That is true, indeed. However, those to whom this policy is addressed will hardly agree with its neo-colonialist aims and ambitions.

FRG 'GERMAN UNITY DAY' AIMED AGAINST GDR, USSR

'Openly Revanchist'

LD172043 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1131 GMT 17 Jun 83

[Text] Bonn, 17 Jun (TASS) -- Today's session of the West German Bundestag (the lower chamber of parliament) was plainly of a provocative character. It was devoted to the notorious "German Unity Day," when the counterrevolutionary action by reaction against the GDR failed shamefully. The question naturally arises as to what was the aim of the Bundestag leaders in holding this highly publicized session. First and foremost it was in order to intensify revanchist and chauvinist tendencies in the country; to slander the peace-loving policy of the GDR, the first workers' and peasants' state on German soil; and to raise doubts about the treaty governing relations between the FRG and the GDR.

This was eloquently shown by the speech in the Bundestag by K. Carstens, the FRG president. The speech by the head of the West German state, in which he insisted on the alteration of a number of provisions regulating relations between the two German states, was nothing but interference in the GDR's internal affairs.

It is indicative that the Green Party, which is represented in the Bundestag, refused to take part in this provocative undertaking.

In this connection one must say that with the advent to power of the CDU/CSU and FDP [Christian Democratic Union/Christian Socialist Union/Free Democratic Party] conservative government coalition there has been a sharp increase in the pernicious activities within the FRG of various kinds of revanchist "associations of fellow countrymen." At numerous gatherings of "those forever harping on the past," impudent demands are put forward for the revision of the postwar borders in Europe and doubt is raised about the treaties that the FRG concluded with states of the socialist community. What is even stranger is that official Bonn representatives, in particular F. Zimmermann, the minister of the interior, and A. Dregger, chairman of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group, have been joining in this unseemly campaign.

At one revanchist gathering, Zimmermann supported the claims of the ringleaders of the "associations of fellow-countrymen" to territories now forming part of Poland and other socialist countries. "The new Federal Government," he stated, "will not agree to limit the framework of the German question only to the FRG and the GDR and to exclude the Eastern German provinces beyond the Oder and the Neisse". The Bonn minister also claimed that for the FRG Government "the German Reich continues to exist within its 1937 borders".

A statement of an openly revanchist character was made in Bonn by Dregger, who attempted to speak on behalf of "all Germans" and did not conceal the fact that the very existence of the GDR is not to his liking. By its peace-loving policies the GDR has earned high prestige throughout the whole world. The attempts of West German reactionaries to undermine this prestige are doomed to fail.

Lessons From the Past

LD180335 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1615 GMT 17 Jun 83

[From the "International Diary" program, presented by Anatoliy Doronin]

[Text] The DPA agency reports from Bonn about a festive session of the Bundestag.

One must say frankly that this telegram arouses a feeling of perplexity, to say the least. What festivities are involved? Why did the sitting have such an air of pomp and ceremony? Our commentator Viktor Levin reports on this:

[Begin Levin recording] In order to understand the essence of what went on, one must go back to events occurring 30 years ago. On 17 June 1953, counterrevolutionary bands carried out an open assault on the people's power in the German Democratic Republic. In spite of the fact that this assault was carefully and stubbornly prepared by the imperialist circles -- first and foremost the American special services -- the organizers were nevertheless unable to widen its scope. This event has remained a minor episode in the history of the German Democratic Republic. Incidentally, just last Thursday Egon Bahr, a prominent figure in the German Social Democratic Party, said that had it not been for the overly feverish activity of the RIAS [Radio in the American Sector of Berlin] radio station, which, I might point out, played the shameful role of instigator, the whole business of the 17 June assault could have fallen through. It was the West Berlin RIAS which came out in the role of town crier, proclaiming counterrevolutionary demands, and in the role of organizer for the provocations. Although Bahr does not come to such conclusions, all the more so since 30 years ago he himself worked for RIAS, his story provides sufficient facts which are synonymous with coming to just such conclusions.

So this very counterrevolutionary assault, excessively blown up by imperialist propaganda, has become the grounds for 17 June to be proclaimed the Day of German Unity in the FRG. And this day is used to whip up tension in central Europe and to inflame hysteria.

Here is another example. Strauss, leader of the CSU and premier of Bavaria, delivered an address to mark the notorious day. He made use of this invented date to cast doubt upon the (?agreements) and treaties concluded between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic. In other words, this day of German Unity has itself given Strauss the pretext to come out against the political realities which occurred in Europe after World War II; realities -- as should be especially underlined -- which are clearly laid down in the Final Act of the all-European conference in Helsinki.

One's attention is drawn to the fact that West Berlin is assigned a role in the evil-smelling deeds of reactionary circles. The extreme right-wing West German organization, Conservative Action, will hold a series of provocations there on 17-18 June aimed against the GDR, the USSR, and against foreign workers living in the city. One can clearly trace in these provocations a nostalgia for the times when West Berlin was a hotbed of tension, a frontline city, or, as one of its former mayors described it, an atom bomb on a long time-fuse. Willi Brandt, the SPD chairman, has warned that the hullaballoo over the Day of German Unity might bring about a confrontation between East and West. This is a sober warning. It is only a pity that the Social Democrats have not dissociated themselves from these actions and, unlike the Greens who refused to take part in the festive session of the Bundestag, went to the parliament building and listened to all the speeches.

The Communists of the FRG and West Berlin occupy a clear and precise position. They have decisively condemned the provocative undertaking. It is condemned by all those who hold dear the peace and security of peoples. There is something else that should be said. The lesson of the events of 17 June 1953 does not at all lie in what is being said today in Bonn and West Berlin. This lesson clearly and convincingly shows once again that the efforts of imperialism to wreck socialism and blow it up are futile. It is essential to remember this today, on the anniversary of these events. [end recording]

IRANIAN STATEMENT ON TALKS WITH DRA SCORED

NC210935 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 20 Jun 83

[Igor Sheftunov commentary from "The World Today" program]

[Excerpts] The Iranian Foreign Ministry has issued a statement in which it stated its negative view on the talks currently being held between representatives of Afghanistan and Pakistan under UN auspices in Geneva. Our commentator, Igor Sheftunov, writes the following:

The Iranian Foreign Ministry is trying to support its opposition to the talks on the solution of problems related to the situation around Afghanistan by invoking the need to respect the will of the Afghan people. However, as we know, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was established 5 years ago as a result of the April Revolution, which reflected the will of the Afghan people.

The Afghan people, who are heroically thwarting aggressions by the imperialists and their associates, are continuing to construct a new life. Meanwhile, the Afghan Government is making initiatives aimed at overcoming differences with neighboring countries and putting an end to the use of these countries' territories by counter-revolutionaries. Democratic Afghanistan has several times put forward peace-seeking initiatives not only to Pakistan, but to Iran as well. An Afghan Foreign Ministry statement says that if the Iranian Government truly supported anti-imperialist struggles, it would not refuse to seize the hand of friendship and cooperation that Afghanistan has extended to it.

The establishment of normal relations between Afghanistan and Iran and between Afghanistan and Pakistan will undoubtedly conform with the interests of these nations and the ensuring of peace throughout the region. However, it seems from the statement issued a few days ago by the Iranian Foreign Ministry that the Iranian authorities do not want this.

EEC STAND ON ISRAEL TERMED 'WISHY-WASHY'

LD201651 Moscow TASS in English 1640 GMT 20 Jun 83

["Following in Washington's Wake" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow June 20 TASS -- TASS commentator Vladimir Kudelin writes:

The participants in the session of the European Council of the communities at the level of heads of state and government of the Common Market countries that was held in Stuttgart, West Germany, decided to renew the financial aid to Israel and to resume contacts between the EEC and Israeli representatives. This aid, as is known, was suspended soon after Israel's perfidious aggression in Lebanon that was unleashed in June last year.

It is remarkable that in the statement on the Middle East, the heads of the Common Market countries, for the first time over many years, did not criticize Israel's aggressive, expansionist, policy aimed against Arab countries, Israel's neighbours.

The Common Market leaders welcomed the Lebanese-Israeli "agreement" whose implementation means undermining Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

The evident pro-Israeli bias of this decision is largely a result of the unprecedented pressure which Washington exerts on its West European partners. Apparently the self-seeking character of the economic and financial course of the Reagan administration, which was manifested vividly at the recent meeting of the seven major capitalist states in Williamsburg, not only aggravates acute contradictions renting the European Economic Community, but can also entail considerable changes in the foreign policy of West European countries, the changes that objectively do not suit their national interests. Precisely such is the anti-Arab decision of the Common Market countries to resume aid to Israel, which staged with Washington's blessing the criminal aggression in Lebanon, the aggression during which over 70 thousand Lebanese and Palestinians were killed or wounded and the material damage inflicted on Lebanon surpassed the value of 16 billion dollars. The wishy-washy stand with regard to the Middle East settlement that has been held by the Common Market countries in the recent years also played its role in the adoption of this decision.

Brazenly ignoring the demands of the world public and the known resolutions of the United Nations Security Council on immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, Tel Aviv continues occupying Lebanese territory and is preparing a bridgehead for the attack on Syria in the east of Lebanon. In these conditions EEC aid to Israel means encouraging the aggressor to new militaristic actions and escalation of tension in the region. By making this decision the Common Market actually solidarizes with the United States which is conducting the course, in the framework of the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance, at the consolidation and economic enslavement of Arab peoples, at imposing imperialist diktat on them.

U.S., ISRAEL FIRM 'COMMON AIMS' ON MIDEAST POLICY

LD201504 Moscow TASS in English 1348 GMT 20 Jun 83

["Mask Thrown Off" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow June 20 TASS -- TASS commentator Grigoriy Vasilyev writes:

As the newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST said, addressing representatives of the American Jewish community, President Reagan made it clear that the Israeli settlements on the West Bank of the Jordan River were "no longer an obstacle in the way to peace."

The President's statement is another striking evidence of both the duplicity of the American Middle East policy and its indisputably pro-Israeli, pro-Zionist bias. It is noteworthy that it was quite recently that high ranking representatives of the U.S. Administration expressed in public "dissatisfaction" with the expanding construction of Israeli outposts on the occupied Arab territories and said that they did not contribute to a Middle East settlement. Apparently Washington uses such verbiage to mislead the Arab public opinion and create in certain Arab circles dangerous illusions as regards a "balanced" policy of the USA and its "concern" with the interests of the Arabs.

Nowadays, after the start of the election campaign in the USA, Washington has thrown off the mask; the Israeli policy of territorial expansionism and annexation has received open support, which Israeli Prime Minister Begin was so perseveringly seeking. By dropping a curtsey to the American Zionist lobby, the Reagan administration has simultaneously reaffirmed its common aims with Israel, the partner in the anti-Arab strategic military-political alliance.

It is apt to recall that the whole ramified system of the Israeli militarised settlements, whose number on the West Bank alone is over 130, has been created due to the enormous financial aid to Israel by the USA. Over the period from 1948 to 1982 Tel Aviv received from the USA for its military-economic needs the huge sum of nearly 24 billion dollars.

In fact, the "development" of the captured Arab lands by Israel far from preventing, on the contrary contributes to "peace" American-Israeli style. This "peace" is based on ensuring the expansionist ambitions of the Israeli aggressors and imperial aims of their overseas patrons at the expense of the vital interests of the Arab peoples and states.

A genuine and just Middle East settlement can be reached only on condition of withdrawal of the Israeli troops from all the occupied Arab territories, of meeting the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine to national self-determination and creation of their own independent state.

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON MOSCOW TV

LD201652 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1300 GMT 20 Jun 83

[From the Vremya newscast]

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam was interviewed by a group of Soviet journalists in Damascus.

[Begin recording, in Arabic with superimposed Russian translation] Syria is full of determination to oppose the plots of U.S. imperialism and Zionism in the Near East with all the means at its disposal. Our country categorically rejects the so-called peace agreement foisted on the Lebanese people by the United States and Israel. Syria firmly adheres to this position in the name of its future, in the name of the future of the Arab peoples, and in the name of peace and security both in the Near East region and in the whole world. The Syrian people, said 'Abd al-Halim Khadda, are deeply grateful to the Soviet Union for the help and support it shows the Arabs, including the Syrians, in their struggle to liberate Arab territory, against Israeli aggression, and to restore the legitimate national rights of the Palestine people.

The relations linking Syria and the Soviet Union are greatly significant not only for Syrians, but for all forces of national liberation and progress in the Near East and in the whole world. We in Syria value the peaceful policy of the USSR in the international arena exceptionally highly. We fully support the Soviet proposals which were put forward recently by Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov and confirmed at the recent plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. [end recording]

ANGOLAN ARMY OFFICIALS VISIT USSR 7-15 JUNE

PM161214 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Jun 83 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Guests From Angola"]

[Text] A delegation of Angolan Armed Forces political workers, headed by Major Bornito de Sousa Baltasar Diogo, deputy chief of the Angolan Armed Forces National Political Directorate, was in the Soviet Union 7 through 15 June 1983 at the invitation of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate.

The delegation members acquainted themselves with the work experience of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate and had a meeting with Admiral A.I. Sorokin, first deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate. Questions relating to the organization of political work in the Army and Navy were covered during the discussion.

The Angolan political workers visited the V.I. Lenin Military Political Academy and the Tbilisi Higher Artillery Command School named for the 26 Baku commissars and acquainted themselves with the combat training, life, and daily activity of the troops and the organization of political work in a Transcaucasus Military District unit.

The Angolan guests visited the V.I. Lenin Mausoleum and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; inspected monuments of the Soviet people's revolutionary, combat, and labor glory; and saw the sights in Moscow and Tbilisi.

The delegation was received by Army General A.A. Yepishev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate. The meeting took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Questions of interest to both sides were discussed at it.

'COUNTERBALANCE' NEEDED FOR RSA 'NUCLEAR MIGHT'

LD110439 Moscow Domestic Television Service in Russian 1445 GMT 10 Jun 83

[From "The World Today" program presented by political observer Vladimir Dunayev]

[Text] Edem Kodjo, secretary-general of the OAU, spoke in Addis Ababa at the 19th session of the assembly of heads of state and government of OAU member-countries. He called upon African countries to create a counterbalance to the Republic of South Africa's nuclear might. It is well-known that with the assistance of Israel, the Republic of South Africa has already tested its nuclear weapons twice. This occurred, according to information from an American source -- I stress, from an American source -- released in September 1979 and March 1980. Of course, since then the nuclear arsenal of the Republic of South Africa could have considerably expanded. It is well-known that the African countries are striving to turn their continent into a nuclear-free zone. The Republic of South Africa with ever more open assistance from not only Israel but also from the United States itself would like to point a nuclear pistol at independent Africa. It is not fortuitous that the present warnings have been heard in Addis-Ababa. They reflect Africa's anxieties.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO ARGENTINA REPLACED

PM201221 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jun 83 First Edition p 6

[Unattributed "Chronicle" report]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has appointed Comrade Oleg Konstantinovich Kvasov USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Argentina.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has relieved Comrade Sergey Romanovich Striganov of his duties as USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Argentina in connection with his retirement.

POSSIBILITY OF NEW VIETNAM IN C.A. RAPPED

LD201536 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 19 Jun 83

[Text] Will President Reagan's policy in Central America lead to a new Vietnam? It seems that this question is becoming an increasingly timely one as the United States is getting deeper and deeper involved in the affairs of El Salvador and other Central American countries. Commentary is by our news analyst Valeriy Teplov and this is what he writes:

The official representatives of the White House are trying to allay the public's fears. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger stated a short while ago in a "Face the Nation" television program that the administration has no intention of using U.S. troops in the area. But if that assertion tallies with reality, how can one explain the fact that the U.S. military presence in the area is growing slowly but surely? In El Salvador there are already scores of advisors who not only train the local punitive forces, but frequently themselves direct military operations and participate in them.

A short while ago these military experts were joined by a new group from the United States. In Honduras the some 200 CIA and Pentagon men actively working there have just been joined by another 120 U.S. officers. They will direct training of Salvadoran and Honduran servicemen. The Pentagon plans to set up in that country the biggest military training base in Central America. (?Besides), plans are shaping to build six airfields capable of receiving U.S. Air Force transport plans. Official Washington is supplying the Salvadoran and Honduran armies with new weapons, munitions, and military hardware.

Circles close to the White House are discussing issues ranging from the possibility of increasing the number of advisers in El Salvador to 2,000 and to the dispatch to that country of U.S. pilots for handling the helicopters and assault planes used against the patriotic forces. From February through June, the United States has three times already staged war games in Central America and the Caribbean area. In addition to that, the Pentagon has visibly stepped up reconnaissance activities in the region, using for the purpose spy planes, ships, and the latest radioelectronic equipment. These measures indicate growing U.S. military involvement in the affairs of Central America and they have been coupled with reshuffles.

Assistant State Secretary Thomas Enders and the U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, Deane Hinton, were removed from their posts.

These officials, who had been inclined lately to resort to diplomatic means for solving the conflict situation in El Salvador, have been replaced by the President's men who put the emphasis on a military solution. The basic meaning of this reshuffling is that the struggle in Central America is being turned into a (?Reagan) war. And that is just why Americans are today increasingly recalling Vietnam. It is hardly surprising therefore that a bitter joke has appeared to the effect that; when translated from Spanish, El Salvador means Vietnam. [as heard] Indeed, the war in Vietnam also began with sending U.S. advisers, instructors, munitions, and weapons into that country. And then, too, White House representatives were busy assuring the public that American boys would not take part in military operations. But it ended with a more than a half million U.S. Army [as heard] being dispatched to Vietnam, and with 58,000 young Americans losing their lives there in that inglorious war.

And if official Washington's policy regarding El Salvador continues to develop as it now is along the lines of the Vietnam scenario, the day may well come when U.S. boys will again have to die on alien soil. And then again zinc coffins with the remains of the dead will start coming to the United States, and again American mothers will cry, mothers who gave birth to their sons for the sake of happiness, not for war and death. And again America will have to experience the hostility of the rest of the world, as was the case during the events in Vietnam when the U.S. soldier was identified with the concept of killer, racist, and incendiary. But one wants to believe that the Americans remember Vietnam, and they won't allow the shame to be repeated in El Salvador.

USSR SUPREME SOVIET REPORTAGE CONTINUES

Aliyev 16 June Report

PM200900 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jun 83 First Edition pp 2-3

["Report by Deputy G. A. Aliyev, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers," delivered at 16 June evening joint session of USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities: "On the Draft USSR Law on Labor Collectives and on Increasing Their Role in the Management of Enterprises, Institutions, and Organizations"]

[Text] Esteemed comrade deputies!

The Draft Law on Labor Collectives and on Increasing Their Role in the Management of Enterprises, Institutions, and Organizations has been submitted for your examination.

This legislative act is a document of great political, economic, and social significance. It embodies Lenin's ideas on the increasingly broad establishment of collectivism in the social practice of the new system and reflects the unchanging course of the Communist Party and the Soviet state of the whole people toward further improving socialist democracy. It is a concrete application of the USSR Constitution's provisions on the role, tasks, and rights of labor collectives -- provisions formulated, you will remember, to a considerable degree by the working people themselves during a nationwide discussion. We see it as a generalization of the leading experience accumulated in the USSR and the fraternal countries and as convincing evidence of the steady improvement of the socialist society's political system.

The present USSR Supreme Soviet session will hold a special place in our life. It has unanimously and with great enthusiasm elected CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. This decision is fully in accordance with our country's highest interests and will help to further strengthen the unity of the party and people, improve the Soviet state's activity, and further enhance its international prestige.

Permit me, dear Yuriy Vladimirovich, to warmly and cordially congratulate you on gaining the high trust of the Communist Party and the Soviet poeple and wish you good health and great successes in the post of head of the Soviet socialist state and in all your multifaceted activity.

All the session's work is taking place under the tremendous, decisive influence of the CPSU Central Committee plenum which ended yesterday. Comrade Yu. V. Andropov's program speech, imbued with profound theoretical generalizations and conclusions, and the plenum decisions are outstanding examples of the creative approach of the Central Committee and its Politburo to the vital problems of the party's and country's life. They reveal the main directions of our activity in the long term and will undoubtedly be warmly approved and supported by all Communists and all Soviet people.

The law being discussed today is designed to actively promote the implementation of the tasks outlined by the party. It is pervaded by concern for the Soviet person, for the creation of conditions under which he can best and most effectively show himself as a worker, as the proprietor of the country, and as a fighter for communism.

The provisions of the draft correspond organically with the instructions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the Central Committee November (1982) Plenum and with the documents elaborated by our party in connection with the 60th anniversary of the USSR.

The law widely reflects the main content of the activity of the party and people at the present stage -- the improvement of developed socialism. The precise orientation toward implementing this historic task has met with convincing, truly nationwide support during the discussion of the draft law. Soviet people unanimously approved the new all-union legislative act, assessing it as an important step toward ensuring that labor collectives manifest themselves even more fully in all spheres of society's life.

That is actually the main point of this law: to help ensure by every means that every labor collective headed by its party organization -- its political nucleus -- can augment the national wealth more effectively as a fitting contribution to the steady improvement of Soviet people's welfare and the consolidation of the state of all the people.

The working people justifiably link the enhancement of the labor collectives' role with the activity of the CPSU and its Central Committee aimed at the fuller revelation of the Soviet person's creative powers and potential and at the flowering of our socialist motherland. They see that the communists' thoughts and deeds are devoted to the noble cause of raising the masses to conscious, historical creation.

Comrade Yu.V. Andropov noted in particular at the plenum that the theme of further developing democratic principles in production management must occupy an important place in the new edition of the CPSU program. And the law on labor collectives, the first in our state's history, which is under discussion today is an important step in that direction.

The Labor Collective Under the Conditions of Developed Socialism

Allow me to dwell on the initial provisions of the draft law determining its basic content.

K. Marx had already predicted that in the future society "collectiveness is presupposed... as the basis of production." This conclusion was creatively developed by V.I. Lenin, who made a tremendous contribution to the theoretical development and practical implementation of the ideas of collectivism. Guided by the behests of its teacher and leader, the party has led the Soviet Union to the heights of developed socialism, when the transformation of the entire system of social relations on the basis of the collectivist principles inherent in the new system is being completed. The broadest scope is thus opened up for implementing the great principle of collectivism. It is becoming the determining feature of our entire mode of life and the labor collective, as the draft law states, is becoming the basic cell of socialist society.

These provisions, formulated by our party, are of a fundamental nature. Generalizing the practice of present social relations, they enrich Marxist-Leninist teaching on socialism. They reflect the organic link between the assertion of public ownership of the means of production and the transformation of labor into free and universal labor. Joint collective labor at socialist enterprises and organizations acts as its main form. Under these conditions the labor collective acquires the status of the basic cell of our society.

And that is indeed so, comrades. After all, it is precisely in the labor collectives that material and spiritual values are created, that the motherland's economic might -- the very foundation of social progress -- is consolidated. It is in the labor collectives that our plans are translated into the language of daily practice and our projected goals are implemented. It is in the labor collectives that Soviet people graduate from a veritable school of life and show themselves as active builders of communism.

As the basic cell of society the labor collective incorporates the most important features and advantages of socialism.

Our labor collectives are by their very social nature free associations of people in which workers, kolkhoz members, the intelligentsia, and representatives of different nations and ethnic groups work together and in collaboration with other collectives. They mean relations between people based on comradely cooperation and mutual aid. They mean their profound understanding of the connection between their labor, the welfare of all members of the collective, and the prosperity of all society.

All this makes the socialist labor collective radically different from the union of workers at a capitalist enterprise under the power of capital and in the interests of capital, in an atmosphere of class antagonisms, oppression and suppression of the individual, and racial and national inequality. Genuine socialist collectivism is, as Marx and Engels put it, the direct opposite of "surrogates of collectivity," of the "bogus collectivity" under the conditions of capitalism when the working people's interests are opposed to the interests of the enterprise owner.

As our society is perfected and acquires ever new features of maturity, the labor collectives also develop. Their social countenance changes, the content of their joint activity is enriched, and the material base is developed. The workers' general educational and cultural and technical standard improves. The nature of labor and the interests and needs of workers, kolkhoz members, and the intelligentsia are brought substantially closer together. Our socialist labor collectives are becoming increasingly socially homogenous and organically united.

As a result, their influence on the country's production and social life increases substantially. Collective forms of activity develop in them, and people's collectivist awareness and behavior are asserted, as are the lofty norms of the Soviet way of life whereby every member of the collective displays concern not only for his own personal successes, but also for the deeds of his comrades and society as a whole. They have an enormous part to play in socialist competition for good end results and in the establishment of new organizational forms of production and labor -- agricultural and science production associations helping to consolidate cooperation between different social groups of working people. All this is reflected in the law under discussion today and will be actively stimulated by it.

The labor collectives are called on to structure their work in such a way as to achieve the correct combination of the interests of the state, the collective, and the individual, proceeding from the premise that the interest of the whole state and the whole people has priority. This is particularly important at the present stage, when our economy has become a unified national economic complex, and the ties and interdependence between different regions, sectors, and spheres have become considerably more complicated. Each collective's respectful, concerned attitude to the interests of other collectives and society as a whole and the strict and unconditional fulfillment of state plans and pledges constitute the supreme criterion of its activity. Ignoring or underestimating the interests of the whole state and the whole people -- which does happen quite commonly -- is not just a direct deviation from the the norms of socialist economic management. It is also, comrades, a gross violation of the principles of collectivism and our morality. I believe that the aim of resolutely overcoming such instances, which is reflected in the law, will be approved by the deputies.

And I should like to say one more thing in this connnection. The fact that every labor collective is entrusted with a particular, sometimes very important, part of public property invests it with a high degree of responsibility for the rational, effective use of available resources. This applies to both materials and financial and manpower resources.

We should also consider here the unique resource, that is, the social production force which arises only in the collective. After all, joint labor is not simply the sum total but rather the multiplication of workers' individual efforts. Here there is indeed an additional reserve, and in leading collectives it is used well. But there are also, unfortunately, many enterprises and organizations, kolkhozes and sovkhozes, where the power of collective labor is, frankly, squandered because of clumsy, poor organization.

When you encounter such instances, you are persuaded once again of the profound truth of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's words that "acquiring the right of ownership and becoming an owner -- a real, wise, thrifty owner -- are far from the same thing." These words apply both to society as a whole and to each labor collective, each worker. It is a case of ensuring that they do become a guideline to action for every person.

Good results from joint labor and correct combination of the interests of society, the collective, and the individual largely depend on the consistency with which and manner in which labor collectives implement the principle of socialism: "from each according to his abilities, to each according to his labor." Many collectives are very exacting in ensuring that work payment is carried out correctly -- in precise accordance with its quantity and quality. This concern is very important, and must be supported in every way.

It is far more difficult to implement the first part of the main principle of socialism -- seeking to ensure that every person works to the full extent of his powers and abilities. Sometimes scant attention is paid to this aspect of the matter. Yet the appropriate conditions must be created to ensure that everyone works according to his abilities. The law provides labor collectives with extensive opportunities for this, emphasizing the intensification of collective interest in the results of joint labor. Mobilizing full labor potential is our most important reserve!

Measures are being elaborated right now for the further expansion of enterprises' autonomy and rights, the consolidation of financial autonomy, and the creation of the best economic opportunities for the manifestation of socialist enterprise and initiative. This will make it possible to mesh the improvement of the system of management and entire economic mechanism with the implementation of the law on labor collectives.

The socialist labor collective is an irreplaceable field for the all-round development of the individual, the revelation of man's creative powers, and the manifestation of his abilities and gifts.

We are well aware how zealously our ideological adversaries try to dispute this propositon. Regarding the collective and the individual as permanent foes, they seek to prove that the socialist system suppresses individuality because it is based on the principles of collectivism. Yet Marx and Lenin long ago established, and life has most convincingly confirmed, that it is private ownership of the means of production which devastates and oppresses the individual and gives rise to egotism. A system based on social ownership, on the other hand, opens up broad scope for the development of man and the manifestation of creative individuality. This very important theoretical conclusion of Marxism-Leninism is consistently implemented in the practice of socialism.

Free labor, labor inspired by a lofty goal, the right to which is really guaranteed by society, is a very great social gain. And Soviet people understand its historic importance well. But it by no means follows from this, comrades, that a demanding approach in work and a new attitude to work are formed automatically, of themselves, under our conditions. No, here we still have more and more work to do, seeking to ensure that any socially useful labor becomes not only more productive, but also fuller.

Thanks to the efforts of the party and state a very great deal has already been done in this direction, but even more still has to be done. The law directs the labor collectives toward galvanizing activity on the acceleration of scientific and technical progress, improving working conditions and organization, and reducing manual, unskilled, and heavy physical work. It will promote the all-around development of the individual in the collective, through collective labor and through people's collaboration in the labor process.

In our country there are over 2.5 million labor collectives of enterprises, institutions, and organizations. Alongside their comrades, an important and necessary job is being done in them by metallurgical worker and baker, miner and scientist, railroad worker and doctor, stockraiser and teacher, cultural worker and salesman. They are employed in different collectives, they have different specialities and professions, but their aims and tasks are common. And as their work in the collective merges into the single result of the work of the plant or institute, kolkhoz or construction site, so the activity of all collectives is united in the mighty stream of nationwide labor. And it is a good thing that that stream is getting wider!

Comrades, the law of labor collectives is a new step in the consistent implementation of the party line of further consolidating democratic principles in management. It may be said with complete justification that V.I. Lenin's instruction to "expand further and further the participation of the working people themselves in the management of the economy and the building of new production facilities" is being unconditionally fulfilled!

The draft law defines labor collectives' relationships with the organs of state power and the principles of their participation in management. It contains a number of new provisions expanding labor collectives' powers, particularly in the sphere of labor administration.

How, specifically, is this expressed?

First, the range of questions -- production, social, and educational -- which come within the sphere of the labor collective's management activity is expanded.

Second, labor collectives are not restricted to elaborating proposals and recommendations -- with regard to many questions the law grants them the right to take autonomously decisions whose execution is mandatory.

Third, the forms and methods by which labor collectives exercise their powers are being improved and their direct participation is being intensified in the management of enterprises, institutions, and organizations as components of the single national economic organism.

The labor collectives' most important powers will be exercised directly by labor collective general meetings (conference). Consequently, the law also lends a new quality to working people's general meetings.

Fundamental significance attaches to the question of exercising the labor collectives' powers between meetings. The law relies here on existing practice which has given a good account of itself. It reinforces primarily the joint exercise of the collective's powers by the administration and the elected organs of the party, trade union, and Komsomol organizations. This form, known as the "quadrangle," has become a firm part of most collectives' lives, and I do not think there is any need to alter it.

Publicity, the regular provision of information for collective members concerning the activity of the enterprise, institution, or organization, and consideration of public opinion are essential prerequisites for more effective participation in management by a collective. This is what governs the level of knowledge brought to bear by workers and employees when discussing and resolving questions relating to the labor collective's powers and their interest in elaborating and implementing the decisions which are taken.

If we try to assess comprehensively the law's democratic nature, then the following conclusion may be drawn: It is an important new contribution to the development of Lenin's ideas and the practice of socialist self-administration. As the law reflects, the Soviet Union practices genuine, socialist, people's self-administration, which is developing in the course of building communism.

Our understanding of self-administration differs radically from its anarcho-syndicalist interpretation. Socialist self-administration is built on the foundation of the proven principle of democratic centralism, which makes it possible to successfully combine the masses' broad participation in management with the unified system of state leadership and planning. It presupposes the unity of the collectives' rights and duties, is based on awareness of discipline and organization, and opposes any manifestation of irresponsibility or laxity. It is organically linked with the consolidation of a statewide system and broad control from below. That is why the enhancement of the labor collectives' role in management strengthens the wholeness of the socialist system and the unity of the entire national economic complex, confirming once again that the socialist system, as Comrade Yu.V. Andropov stresses, "makes the implementation of the working people's collective rights and duties the mainspring of social progress."

Basic Directions of Activity and Powers of Labor Collectives

So, comrade deputies, what are the basic directions of the activity of labor collectives and their powers as provided by the draft law?

The law places the rights in the sphere of economic and social planning foremost among all the powers of labor collectives. This is fully justified. Socialism and planned development are terms which are fused together and inseparable. It is planning that preconditioned to a large extent the successes in the development of our economy, science and technology, and the growth of the people's prosperity. We will comprehensively improve centralized planning -- a fundamental advantage of socialism!

The reliable way to do this is by further expanding the participation of labor collectives in planning activity. Our plans are not bureaucratic instructions from above. They are based on considerations of the demands and resources of society as a whole and of each enterprise, institution and organization. The labor collective, aware of its real possibilities, must make an especially weighty contribution to their elaboration. From this viewpoint the law's stipulation that plans are to be submitted for approval by state organs only after they have been reviewed by labor collectives is one of its fundamentally new aspects.

It is necessary to make separate mention of counterplans. Generated by the initiative of the masses, they enrich the practice of socialist planning. They supplement the state plans and place at society's service the uncovered reserves and new possibilities of enterprises. And it is very good that the law consolidates the legal basis for the dissemination of experience accumulated in this work everywhere.

The law comprehensively reflects the pivotal problem of the implementation of our economic and social programs. This is the transfer of the economy to a chiefly intensive path of development and the enhancement of the efficiency and quality of all labor collectives' work.

In the final analysis, what is at issue is social labor productivity -- the main factor of economic growth and our progress.

The task of production collectives is to fully utilize the possibilities of technology, cadre training, progressive forms of work organization, and the masses' enthusiasm to accelerate the growth of labor productivity. The law clearly defines the collectives' rights and obligations in this sphere: to increase labor efficiency and work quality, and to accomplish the set tasks better and with fewer people working on them -- that is the requirement of the times!

In parallel with the efficient utilization of labor resources, it is no less important to ensure total preservation and rational utilization of the so-called real elements of the economy. We have at our disposal huge fixed capital, whose total value now comprises the truly astronomical figure of R2 trillion. If we were to raise the return on fixed production capital by a single percentage point, the country would receive about R5 billion worth of additional national income. Significant efficiency reserves are concealed in the more economic use of raw materials, fuel, electric power and other material resources. But no matter what reserves we talk about, they can all be brought into effect mainly through the labor collective.

The most important question of production and labor, an exceptionally topical question, is the strengthening of discipline: state, planning, technological and labor discipline. This, in V.I. Lenin's words, is "the key to all economic building." It is an immutable condition of success in any collective work, all the more so in work on the scale of a country like ours.

As you recall, the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) Plenum demanded that a decisive struggle be waged against any breaches of discipline, no matter what form they may take. The improvement of labor organization, the growth of labor efficiency, and the strengthening of discipline and order is not just an isolated campaign but a long-term party line -- a line that is warmly supported by the Soviet people.

It is indicative that perhaps the largest number of proposals submitted during the discussion of the draft law referred to discipline questions. Their main characteristic was the working people's concern for the state of affairs in discipline and their profound interest in the country's affairs. The workers, all working people, speak with one voice: They want order in production, in transportation, in municipal services, in consumer services and in trade, and they want violators treated more strictly! They sharply condemn those who work in a slipshod manner, who try to snatch from society benefits for which they have not worked, who misuse the wealth of socialism. Discipline in our country is the same for all, regardless of position or official appointment.

Taking into consideration the unanimous opinion of Soviet people, the draft law's stipulations regarding the labor collectives' powers to strengthen discipline have been enriched. They fully reflect Lenin's instructions that the working people themselves must play a decisive role in cultivating and strengthening conscious discipline. Now the collective is being given an opportunity to exert a greater influence on the work of every working person and to demonstrate more effectively its strict, comradely exactingness and its intolerance of any breaches of discipline. Let the loafers, shirkers, drifters and dodgers feel the force of the collective's angry condemnation!

During the discussion of the draft law, meetings and the press conducted a substantive dialogue about teams, their significance and their rights. The line of widespread introduction of the team form of labor organization met with full support.

The draft law allocates a significant position to the team as a primary link of the labor collective. Experience has shown that the teams achieve higher labor productivity and thrifty utilization of resources, enhance personal interest in end results, intensify control over the shareand remuneration of labor, strengthen discipline, improve workers' qualifications, and develop management habits. These are extremely positive phenomena! This is why it is necessary to do everything to introduce even more widely the team form of labor organization and incentives.

Comrade deputies, economic development under socialism is subordinated to the improvement of people's well-being and the fuller satisfaction of their material and spiritual needs. We are rightly proud of the fact that our society ensures a steady growth of the population's material and cultural living standards. This growth is attained mainly on the basis of remunerating work according to its quantity and quality. At the same time, the public consumption funds meet the costs of free education, medical services, pensions and allowances, and grants to school and university students. But all this, comrades, originates from a single source: it is, so to speak, produced by the labor collectives! And there is a most profound meaning in the fact that now their rights to control labor and its remuneration are being substantially augmented. The law expands the powers of collectives in improving wages, bonus payments, and the utilization of incentive funds. The law contains an important provision that payments from incentive funds cannot be made without the labor collective's agreement.

One of the urgent tasks of our times is to improve the people's housing conditions. Housing construction is in progress on a huge scale throughout the country. Each year brings the desired new housing to many millions of our compatriots. We can say definitely that the USSR citizen's constitutional right to housing is a real right!

Under the law, the labor collectives will review and approve housing construction plans, hear accountability reports on their fulfillment, and take decisions on housing construction financed by enterprise funds. A firm rule is being established that living space in buildings constructed and financed by the corresponding funds of enterprises cannot be handed over to other organizations or used for other purposes without the labor collective's agreement.

Unfortunately, there still are quite a few shortcomings in our country in the construction, exploitation, and upkeep of housing. We cannot condone the fact that the funds allocated for housing construction are not assimilated on schedule in many of the country's regions and that housing is often handed over with much of the work still unfinished. Today I would like to remind the construction workers' collectives yet again that their foremost duty is the unconditional fulfillment of housing construction plans with high-quality housing. Any breaches of the established procedure for allocating living space are also impermissible. And such breaches are still occurring. The questions of provision of housing especially require justice, publicity, and effective control. All this is clearly reflected in the law.

Many wishes were expressed by the Soviet people during the discussion of the draft law with respect to trade, public catering, transportation, municipal services, and consumer services. It is vitally important to improve the work of all enterprises, institutions, and organizations in the consumer services sphere and raise it to a higher level. This is a matter of professional honor for the labor collectives working in this sphere! They can be well helped by other labor collectives, too, through greater concern over workers canteens, the development of subsidiary farms, and the construction of consumer service projects and children's facilities. To sum up, it is necessary for all collectives, regardless of the nature of their activity, to adopt this task as their own and to show initiative and enterprise.

The expansion of the services sphere and increased output of consumer goods, in conjunction with the implementation of the Food Program, is the fundamental core of the party's social program. These questions must constantly be the focus of attention of party, soviet, and trade union organs, ministries and departments, and all labor collectives.

A main concern of Soviet society has always been, is, and will remain the people's health. Each year the state and the trade unions allocate larger sums to improve work conditions and safety and medical services for the people, to construct sanatoriums, rest homes, vacation hotels, and Pioneer camps. The labor collectives are becoming involved more and more actively in this work. The law grants them the right to discuss the state of affairs in medical services, to approve comprehensive plans for improving work conditions and safety and medical and recuperation measures, and to monitor their implementation.

I would especially like to address the collectives in public health institutions. They are obliged to utilize existing potential effectively, to be persistent in improving the quality of medical services, and to be firm in eradicating any instances of breaches of medical ethics.

There are very important provisions in the law that affect working women. There are many millions of women at work in the national economy. And after all, many women have an additional heavy load in the home and in raising children. And even though the Soviet state gives considerable assistance to families with children, the concern and attention of one's work comrades are very important here. Each collective is called on to do its utmost to create favorable conditions for mothers.

The law directs labor collectives' attention to the importance of taking a tactful attitude to pensioners and involving them in social life, in such work as is feasible, and in the education of young people. The humanitarianism of our system can be judged by the very posing of this question. Here we see yet another principled distinction between socialism and capitalism, where the master needs the working man only so long as he can work intensively and brings in profits.

It must always be remembered that Great Patriotic War veterans, whose military feats will always remain in people's memories, are living alongside us and are working fruitfully in many collectives. The people's gratitude to those who defended the fatherland and protected its bright future is boundless.

We should strive jointly to ensure that every family, every Soviet person, and especially every veteran constantly feels the warmth of the concern of his native land and his own collective!

Comrades! The labor collectives' functions are not confined to production and socio-political activity. They take over the task of education from the family and the school and, in turn, exert exceptionally strong influence on strengthening the moral bases of the Soviet family, on the work of general educational schools and, of course, of vocational and technical colleges. The labor collective is in its own way a university of life. "No other force," A.G. Gorkiy wrote, "makes a man great and wise like the force of labor -- collective, harmonious and free labor."

The law stresses that labor collectives implement measures for working people's ideological-political, labor, and moral education. The paramount task is to foster in every person an understanding of the need for conscientious, highly efficient work for the common good. The collective has many resources for resolving that task. The system for the improvement of skills, the economic training of cadres, and the training of workers in new trades and advanced methods of labor and production organization, mass competition, and technical creativity are all put into practice within the collective and provide working people with a real opportunity to display their strengths, knowledge, and abilities.

Collectives carry out ideological-political education in indissoluble unity with labor education. The more actively collectives participate in forming a Marxist-Leninist world outlook and a class awareness and in asserting an implacability toward all manifestations of bourgeois ideology and morality, the more successfully the task of education are resolved in our society.

The influence of collectives on the training of working people in a spirit of soviet patriotism and socialist internationalism is of lasting significance. That is noted in the law, and with good reason. After all, comrades, every labor collective now unites people of different nationalities who are resolving common tasks harmoniously and in a fraternal unity -- there is no other word for it! Multinational labor collectives are the environment where the spirit of internationalism and the sense of a united family are fostered best of all. To a great extent it is to the credit of labor collectives that an internationalist outlook is an inalienable feature of the Soviet character which distinguishes our relations both with the peoples of the fraternal countries and the working people of the whole world. Such an outlook is the greatest achievement of real socialism and a spiritual possession of world-wide significance. Protecting and increasing it are an important political task.

Labor and political activity and the practical results of the activity of collectives depend directly on the moral and psychological atmosphere that is established within them. When discussing the draft law, working people raised the urgent question of eradicating drunkenness, hooliganism, acquisitiveness, manifestations of a materialist, petit bourgeois-philistine outlook, and other antitheses of communist morality. Instances of negligence, embezzlement of the people's property, bribery, and the production of poor-quality output are rated as a great social evil. Uncompromising struggle against these negative phenomena is each collective's direct duty and the indicator of its moral maturity. There is no force of moral influence on people greater than the collective and it must be used to the full!

A differentiated, individualized approach to people is of exceptional importance in educational work. And, of course, particular attention must be paid to young people. Any collective which takes on a novice is expected to help him not only to acquire a trade but also to formulate ideological convictions, firm moral bases, and an active life stance or, as workers rightly say, to help him become a man. A worthy contribution is made to that by advanced worker mentors and production veterans and innovators. They do the most noble work, sparing neither time nor effort.

The law expands the powers of labor collectives to consolidate young people in production and to ensure their vocational and creative growth. They are now authorized to nominate workers for training at VUZes and technical colleges, which will help in selecting the most worthy and most able. Some 370,000 VUZ and technical college students now hold grants from various enterprises, kolkhozes, and sovkhozes. This practice, of course, must be expanded.

The discussion of the draft law showed that Soviet people can see collectives' tremendous educational potential. In the light of numerous requests, appropriate additions have been made to the draft law. They concern the labor training and vocational guidance of schoolchildren, the education of young people in revolutionary, combat and labor traditions, the performance of political-educational and cultural-educational work among the population, and the introduction and development of Soviet traditions and customs.

We can say with complete justification that the labor collective is one of the main links in our education system. Now that the CPSU Central Committee June (1983) Plenum has armed party, trade union and Komsomol organizations, soviet and economic organs and, of course, labor collectives, with a clear program for further intensifying educational work, the role of that link must increase still further.

Comrades! A correct cadre policy is an indispensable condition of the labor collective's successful exercise of all its functions and powers. The law lays down that labor collectives take part in the discussion and resolution of questions of the training, placement, and rational use of cadres, ensuring the stability of collectives and improving the structure of an enterprise, institution, or organization. The principle of labor collectives' comprehensive evaluation of the activity of officials and other members of the collective is enshrined in law for the first time. The labor collective's opinion is to be considered when workers at an enterprise, institution, or organization are to be appointed or dismissed. Seeking the labor collective's advice is a good guarantee that competent workers will be promoted and a reliable barrier raised against those who do not know their work, do not know how to work with people, and display arrogance and vulgarity.

We possess experienced leaders and management cadres in all spheres. They enjoy deserved prestige and fulfill their duties worthily. They are not divorced from the labor collective, but are a component of it. At the same time, the administration also always acts as the state-appointed leadership of an enterprise, institution, or organization, which operates on the basis of one-man management in conjunction with the broad participation of labor collectives. The law consolidates that provision. It does not infringe the functions or powers of leaders, but raises the level of demands on them substantially. Is that correct? It seems quite correct!

In implementing the collective's rights and duties, a leading role belongs to primary party organizations. It is primarily their militancy that determines the degree of working people's real participation in social life and in the affairs of enterprises, institutions, and organizations. Communists' purposeful organizational and educational work is capable of raising a collective and the social organizations operating within it to meet the level of new demands and opportunities. Using the statutory right to monitor an administration's activity, primary party organizations have an opportunity to promptly expose and eliminate shortcomings in work and thereby exert a beneficial influence on the collective's fulfillment of its tasks.

While expanding the powers of labor collectives, the law contributes quite a lot that is new to the activity of trade union organizations. All powers of collectives, whether they relate to the development of social production, the improvement of working conditions and everyday life, protection of rights, the increasing of working people's prosperity, or to any other sphere, are wielded with the most active and -- I would stress -- indispensable participation of trade unions. Trade unions are being given an opportunity to make fuller use of such a tried and tested form of industrial democracy as collective contracts.

Komsomol organizations will also have their say in the implementation of the new law. This applies primarily to those powers of the labor collective that are connected with the training and education of young people. The law also envisages that labor collectives should examine Komsomol organizations' proposals on the formation of Komsomol-youth collectives and should submit their recommendations.

In the light of the law, further improvement is needed in the activity of such elected organs as standing production conferences, people's control committees, groups and posts and comrades' courts. Every social organ can and must make a major effort to promote the exercise of the labor collective's powers.

All these avenues of work and all these forms of working people's participation in management are a single package which forms an organic part of our system of people's power.

Their correct utilization will ensure the attainment of that aim for which the draft law on labor collectives and on enhancing their role in the management of enterprises, institutions and organizations under discussion today was formulated -- to ensure that the Soviet person's words and opinions are given greater weight in society and that his great sense of being the master of his own country is shown in creative labor to an even greater degree for our socialist motherland's happiness and prosperity!

Comrade deputies, it can be said with satisfaction that the discussion of the draft law engendered a new burst of people's initiative. It took place in a businesslike and creative atmosphere. Comparing every line of the law with the life of their collectives, working people analyzed the state of affairs in specific sectors and talked frankly about existing shortcomings and unutilized reserves. Practical measures were outlined to improve work quality and strengthen discipline and order. And this has had a positive effect on the activity of many collectives.

More than 110 million Soviet citizens participated in the discussion. There were 1.23 million meetings of labor collectives devoted to the examination of the draft, and over 5 million people spoke at them.

Daily the central, republic, and local press, television and radio conducted a detailed discussion of the draft law and substantiated the amendments to it. There were numerous suggestions in letters sent by citizens directly to the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and USSR Council of Ministers. There was a total of nearly 130,000 suggestions and observations on the draft.

Permit me, comrades, to express profound gratitude to all collectives and organizations and all citizens who participated in the discussion of the draft law.

In summing up the political results of the mass discussion of the draft, it should be said quite definitely that it showed Soviet people's deep interest in the affairs of state, their absolute confidence in the Communist Party and their monolithic cohesion around the CPSU, its Leninist Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo headed by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Comrade Yu. V. Andropov.

The observations and suggestions which were received were of invaluable assistance in work on the draft law. They were all closely studied and generalized in the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities Legislative Proposals Commissions.

In this connection I would like to stress that 21 of the draft's 23 articles were changed. There were more than 70 additions and amendments. They are reflected in the amended draft law and in the commissions' conclusions, which we have before us.

Among the essentially correct suggestions were some which could not be adopted because this would have made the law too detailed. They will be examined in the course of work to bring existing legislation into line with the adopted law.

During the discussion of the draft, amendments were also suggested which overstep the bounds of the labor collectives' authority. These suggestions could not be adopted.

A number of letters and speeches drew attention to omissions in the work of certain enterprises, institutions, and organizations. Ministries and departments and local party, soviet, and trade union organs must examine working people's observations and take immediate steps to eliminate the shortcomings.

The draft law on labor collectives has had a widespread international impact. In the fraternal socialist countries it is rightly seen as a major new step in the development of Soviet democracy and in enhancing the initiative and activeness of our country's working people. The law prompted a positive reaction among the Western progressive public.

At the same time, the bourgeois mass news media tried to play down its significance and misinterpret its content. Our class enemies have made many vicious attacks on it. Their main thesis has been that the law does not give enterprises freedom. What kind of freedom are they talking about? Freedom to indulge in ruthless competition, freedom for the strong to crush and devour the weak? This kind of "freedom" does not and cannot exist in our society. In increasing the authority and potential of working collectives in the management of enterprises, our law is proceeding from the principles of a society of free labor and social justice which has essentially become a single, nationwide collective.

The discussion of the draft law on labor collectives at this session was preceded by an examination of the question of the international situation. The peace initiatives put forward by our country are generating active support throughout the world and having a tremendous influence in terms of intensifying the peoples' struggle against the arms race and against the threat of war. The Communist Party and the Soviet state, expressing the fundamental interests of the broadest masses, are doing all they can to save mankind from nuclear catastrophe. "Communists," Comrade Yu.V. Andropov stressed at the Central Committee June Plenum, "have always been fighters against oppression and man's exploitation of man, and today they are also fighting to preserve human civilization, for man's right to live."

The peoples of the world have just heard from this lofty platform new USSR proposals which are evidence of the Soviet people's firm desire for peace. And the entire content of the law on labor collectives which we are discussing expresses our peaceful orientation, our desire to implement our great tasks in an atmosphere of calm, trust, and mutually advantageous international cooperation. By directing collectives to improve work efficiency and increase the masses' labor and political activeness, the law will contribute to the further strengthening of the country's economic and defense might and the moral and political unity of Soviet society. Thus, the foundation of the CPSU's consistent, peace-loving policy will become even stronger.

Comrade deputies, the adoption of the law on labor collectives will mark the beginning of great work by the soviets, all state organs, ministries, and departments on its implementation. The law obliges them to provide labor collectives with the conditions they require for uninterrupted, smooth work and to promote in every way the development of democratic principles in their activity by comprehensively improving the leadership of subordinate enterprises, institutions, and organizations.

And we must proceed from the premise that this law is the embodiment of the will of the working class and all working people. It must be implemented unswervingly and fully.

Of course, the labor collectives themselves must be the main, decisive form in the implementation of the new law. It is on them that the effective exercise of the powers bestowed on them primarily depends. On the basis of the law's norms, every collective must become even more actively involved in the solution of the specific tasks of the 1983 plan and the 5-year plan as a whole and in the implementation of the USSR Food Program, in order to ensure a further improvement in the people's well-being.

The law on labor collectives accords with society's pressing needs. At the same time, it is a long-term act.

It will serve well the implementation of the program tasks of the Communist Party and the Soviet land. Its adoption will open up new possibilities for even more effective utilization of the creative strength, knowledge, and experience of Soviet people. And the heroic working class, the kolkhoz peasantry, the people's intelligentsia, and all working people in our multinational motherland will attain new accomplishments on the great path of communist creation under the leadership of their collective leader -- Lenin's party! (prolonged applause)

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[Unattributed report: "Information Report on the USSR Supreme Soviet Session"]

[Text] The 8th Session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, 10th Convocation, continued its work in Moscow on 17 June 1983.

The third joint session of the Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities was held at 1000 in the Grand Kremlin Palace under the chairmanship of Soviet of the Union Chairman A.P. Shitikov.

The session discussed the draft USSR Law on Labor Collectives and on Enhancing Their Role in the Management of Enterprises, Institutions and Organizations.

The following deputies contributed to the debate: A.S. Sukhanov (Moscow City [Gorodskoy] Electoral Okrug, RSFSR); B.A. Ashimov (Karaganda Kirovskiy Electoral Okrug, Karaganda Oblast); B.V. Kachura (Donetsk Voroshilovskiy Electoral Okrug, Donetsk Oblast); P.G. Gilashvili (Gegechkorskiy Electoral Okrug, Georgian SSR); M.G. Gapurov (Ashkhabad Electoral Okrug, Turkmen SSR); N.A. Novoselova (Zlatoustovskiy Electoral Okrug, Chelyabinsk Oblast); Ye.F. Muravyev (Promyshlenny Electoral Okrug, Kuybyshev Oblast); Z.M. Mazur (Strashenskiy Electoral Okrug, Moldavian SSR); V.D. Dynakonov (Kalininskiy Electoral Okrug, Bashkir ASSR); and A.K. Zitmanis (Ventspils Electoral Okrug, Latvian SSR).

The USSR Supreme Soviet unanimously adopted the USSR Law on Labor Collectives and on Enhancing Their Role in the Management of Enterprises, Institutions and Organizations and a resolution bringing the law into force.

Then the USSR Supreme Soviet listened to a report by USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Secretary T.N. Menteshashvili on the Presidium decrees submitted for the USSR Supreme Soviet's approval and adopted appropriate laws and resolutions.

At this point the 8th Session of the USSR Supreme Svoiet, 10th Convocation drew to a close.

ANDROPOV PRESENTS AWARDS AT KREMLIN CEREMONY

LD171059 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 17 Jun 83

[Text] Today in the Kremlin Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, presented the country's high awards to senior party figures and statesmen. During the presentation Comrade Andropov, made a speech. He said:

TEXT Dear comrades, I am exceptionally pleased that I begin my duties as chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium with the presentation of state awards to such respected and honorable people. Comrades Aliyev and Romanov, on whom the title of the Hero of Socialist Labor has been conferred, and Comrade Shcherbitskiy, awarded with the Order of Lenin, are outstanding figures of our party and Soviet state. Comrade Sizov and Chibrikov, both awarded with Orders of Lenin, are well known in our party and warmly respected by the Soviet people.

From the bottom of my heart I congratulate you, dear comrades, on this occasion and wish you new successes in your great and responsible activities. As statesmen [kak lyudi gosudarstvennyye], you will not be surprised when alongside with the congratulations and tributes to your great services I also mention the unsolved tasks that every one of you will have to deal with.

The first half of the third year of the 5-year plan period has, it would seem, manifested itself with not bad results. Nonetheless, every day brings to us data on great and unused opportunities and serious reserves that will have to be mobilised. The main reserve is the masses' enthusiasm and irresistible desire to do everything possible to fulfill the national economic plans. Our task is to give all-round support to this aspiration, and not to allow the upsurge to die away. As is known, this needs great efforts and intensive work on the part of party, state and economic organs.

Permit me once again to wish you successes along this path and I congratulate you once more, dear comrades, with high awards.

Those awarded expressed sincere gratitude to the Communist Party, its Leninist Central Committee, and the Soviet state for the high evaluation of their work, and made assurances that in the future they will continue to dedicate all their strength, knowledge, and experience to the all-round improvement of developed socialism and the cause of constructing communism in our country. The speeches were listened to with great attention and met with applause.

Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and other comrades present at the presentation warmly congratulated those awarded and wished them new successes in the fulfilment of the 26th CPSU congress' historical decisions for the benefit of the socialist homeland.

LAST LINE

ECONOMIC WEEKLY VIEWS GAS INDUSTRY PROGRESS

PM170815 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 24, Jun 83 (Signed to Press 6 Jun 83) p 3

[V. Borisov report under general heading "Plans and Pledges Are Being Successfully Fulfilled": "The Gas Industry"]

[Text] The gas industry continues to develop at a rapid rate. In the current year it is planned to increase gas extraction in the country by 5.6 percent over 1982. Having extensively developed socialist competition, gas sector workers are honorably fulfilling their plan targets and adopted pledges. In the first 5 months of the year, 224 billion cubic meters of gas -- some 4.6 billion more than planned -- were extracted. The increase over the same period last year was 7.5 percent, and labor productivity at Ministry of the Gas Industry enterprises was up 4.8 percent over 1982.

The collective of the Tyumengasprom Association -- the initiator of the competition in the sector -- has achieved great successes in opening up West Siberia's fields. In the first 5 months of the year 2.7 billion cubic meters of above-plan gas have been extracted in this area. This represents a 19.7 percent increase on the figure for January-May last year.

Personnel at the Turkmengasprom and Uzbekgazprom have achieved high indicators in work. They have dispatched 644 million and 147 million cubic meters of above-plan gas for their respective fields. The Ukrgazprom, Orenburggasprom and other associations have overfulfilled their plans.

Success has been achieved in the sector's work on the basis of the Urengoy field's accelerated development, the widespread introduction of high-performance equipment, and the rational use of existing capacity.

A large unit for the comprehensive preparation of gas with a capacity of 20 billion cubic meters a year was commissioned this year at the Urengoy field.

The length of gas transportation systems increased by more than 1,200 km. Seven compressor stations were commissioned.

Gas industry enterprises and organizations are currently being prepared for work in the coming winter period. The schedule for pumping gas into underground storage tanks is being overfulfilled. Reserves are substantially higher this year than last. The rate at which main gas pipelines, gas pumping units and oil industry equipment are being repaired has increased.

Nevertheless, serious shortcomings and lapses are still occurring in the economic activities of certain gas industry enterprises and organizations. The drilling of operational gas wells is behind schedule in Tyumen Oblast.

Production capacities, housing, and cultural and consumer-service facilities are being built in a haphazard manner. In the Urengoy field, for example, the construction of field installations and roads is making slow progress. The construction of service facilities [obustroystov] is behind schedule at a number of fields in Turkmenia. Capital investment efficiency is being reduced by the large amount of unfinished work which is hampering the normal operation of installations.

IZVESTIYA REVIEWS HAYMAKING, SOWING PROGRESS

PM170813 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jun 83 Morning Edition p 1

["Agricultural Review" by O. Pavlov: "After the Sowing Campaign -- Haymaking and Harvesting"]

[Text] According to data issued by the USSR Central Statistical Administration by Monday, 6 June, spring crops in the country had been sown on 141.1 million hectares, including grains and pulses (but excluding corn) on 86.1 million hectares. Spring wheat takes up 33.5 million hectares, barley 26.5 million hectares, grain corn 4.6 million hectares, pulses 5.9 million hectares, sunflowers 4.2 million hectares, millet 2.7 million hectares, buckwheat 1.6 million hectares, and rice 634,000 hectares.

Potatoes have been planted on 3 million hectares and vegetables on 1.2 million hectares.

Silage corn has been sown on 15.2 million hectares, annual grasses on 9.9 million hectares, and feed root crops on 1.8 million hectares.

Kazakhstan completed the sowing of grains on 1 June. The farms in its Virgin Land oblasts kept within the optimal agrotechnical schedules in the republic's main wheat field. And yet the weather had created quite a few complications for the Virgin Land people. I wrote in the previous review a week ago that temperatures had dropped sharply in the Virgin Lands, snow had fallen in places, the rains had come, and work was temporarily halted. But they rapidly gathered pace in the subsequent days and the main grain oblasts were sowing more than 250,000-300,000 hectares per 24-hour period.

Within the week graincrops in Kazakhstan were sown on 6 million hectares.

Kazakhstan's Virgin Land workers completed the sowing campaign in good spirits. And right away they moved on to tend the crops and cultivate the fallow lands. And the haymaking is gathering pace....

All in all, graincrops in Kazakhstan have covered about 23 million hectares, of which almost 16,000 hectares have been sown with wheat. For the first time mineral fertilizers were applied during sowing on 8 million hectares.

Serious attention in the republic is now being given to groats, which have been sown on larger areas. At the same time, the sowing of buckwheat and millet is being concentrated and farms are specializing in their cultivation. Thus in Mayskiy Rayon, Pavlodar Oblast, 40 percent of the grainfields have been allocated to millet. In Uralsk Oblast this crop occupied 110,000 hectares -- also a rather large area. East Kazakhstan Oblast, which last year significantly overfulfilled the plan for buckwheat sales to the state, has allocated 30,000 hectares to this crop this year. The farms are determined to harvest no less than 30,000 tons of this valuable grain this year, and to bring the area sown with buckwheat up to 50,000 hectares by 1990. In all kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the republic, buckwheat and millet are cultivated by specialized subunits. Many of them work on collective contracts.

In the Russian Federation, the farms of the eastern areas completed the sowing campaign at fast rates. During the week spring crops in West and East Siberia were sown on 4.4 million hectares, of which 2.5 million hectares were sown with grains.

The sowing campaign is practically over in the country. How do our fields look now? Or, more specifically, what has changed there?

Larger areas than last year have been sown with grain, pulses and buckwheat, in particular barley on 1.4 million hectares, grain corn on 787,000 hectares, pulses on 902,000 hectares, millet on 125,00 hectares, buckwheat on 33,000 hectares, soybeans on 36,000 hectares, and flax on 47,000 hectares. The areas sown with sugar beets, cotton, sunflowers and rice have remained within the limits of average areas which have been set over many years. Somewhat larger areas have been sown with potatoes and vegetables, and smallar areas with wheat. The crop structure is oriented toward increasing feed reserves and the harvest of groat crops, and toward improving the protein balance of feed. Meanwhile the harvesting conveyor belt in Central Asisa is gathering pace. Grains in Uzbeskistan have been threshed on an area of 33,000 hectares, and in Turkmenistan on 26,000 hectares. The Virgin Land farms in Surkhan-Darya Oblast are successfully engaged in grain sales to the state. Grain outputs are good and much higher than in previous years. The sowing machines are out in the fields immediately after the harvesting: it is necessary to produce a second harvest. Corn seeds are being planted in the soil.

Haymaking has also spread widely in the country. The grasses have been cut on 10 million hectares, which is 4.5 million more than by the same time last year. Procurements amount to 5.4 million tons of hay, 11.2 million tons of haylage, and 856,000 tons of grass meal, which is significantly more than at the same time a year ago. Farms in all regions of the country are actively preparing for mass harvesting work.

ROLE OF RAYON AGRO-INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS VIEWED

LD182337 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 110 GMT 18 Jun 83

[Report by Vladlen Aleksandrovich Ivanov, chief editor of the journal ZEMLEDELIYE, on early results of rayon agro-industrial associations -- recorded]

[Summary] It has been 6 months since the new Rayon agro-industrial associations [RAPO] were set up nationwide. Governmental commissions have been set up and are operative in most parts of the country. The farms and the branches connected with them have been set up as autonomous organizations. These new management bodies seek to better coordinate territorial branch planning and to unite the efforts and actions of the particpants in the agro-industrial complex in solving the ultimate tasks: the reliable supply of foodstuffs and other produce to the rest of the country.

The RAPO is of particular importance because of its direct links with production. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and intereconomic groups of procurement and processing enterprises, are included. The soviet is the highest body of the RAPO. The RAPO Soviet comprises farm managers and the managers of other enterprises and organizations. Its chairman is the head of the rayon agriculture directorate. The apparatus of this directorate is also the working apparatus of the RAPO. Many RAPO's launched operations immediately after being set up. The Kostroma RAPO Soviet launched operations to overcome the lagging behind of weak farms. The rayon Selkhozkhimiya and Selkhoztekhnika introduced priority servicing of lagging farms, and reviewed, to their benefit, their mineral fertilizer and peat resources. The privileges accorded to the lagging farms this year are now beginning to yield dividends.

"However, in many RAPO's the unresolved questions still outnumber the resolved ones. Of course, the lack of working experience has an effect. But there are also reasons of a different nature: the sluggishness and passivity of certain RAPO soviets in launching specific work and the unsettled nature of a number of legal questions and activities." The CPSU Central Committee and Soviet Government is urging the new management bodies to hasten their activities to facilitate increases in production efficiency.